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Illustrations **Toon53 Productions**

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ADVERTISING SALES **pieter@dhsmedia.co.za**

for more information

PHONE: +27 10 006 0051
MAIL: PO Box 71450, Bryanston, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2021
ADDRESS: First Floor Block 6 Fourways Office Park, Cnr Roos Street & Fourways Boulevard, 2191
EMAIL: info@dhsmedia.co.za
WEB: www.playboy.co.za
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/playboysouthafrica
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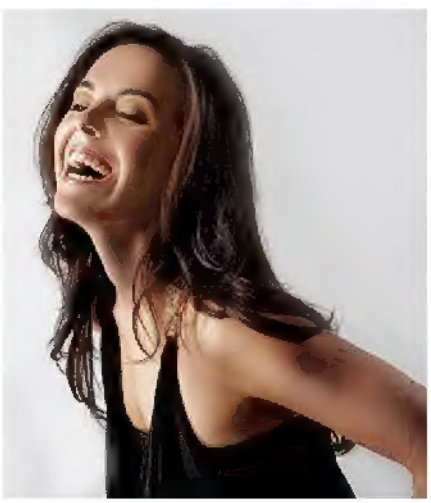
Catherine Servel
Raised in France and trained at New York City's School of Visual Arts in the US, Servel has made a name for herself as an in-demand celebrity photographer, carrying a portfolio that includes everyone from Kim Gordon to M.I.A. to Susan Sarandon. Her portraits of comedian Kevin Hart are a perfect accompaniment to his Playboy Interview.

Bridget Phetasy
A stand-up comic living in Los Angeles, USA,Phetasy has penned her sex column Just the Tips exclusively for Playboy.com since April 2015. This month, Phetasy brings her writing — and her savvy, sex-positive-wit — to our Advisor page, answering perhaps the greatest question of our generation: Is it ever okay to send a dick pic?



Ryan Lowry
A skateboarder, a comic, a rocker, a rhyme spitter, a sex-rights activist, a slam poet. It takes an indefatigable talent to capture the essence of such distinct personalities. In a testament to his gifts and agility, photographer Lowry did just that, his work becoming the primary visual voice of our Renegades Issue.

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No 62 September 2017

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dance partnership is like
a marriage: It teaches
you the art of patience
and tells a story. Every
one of my partners has
taught me something,
from Noah Galloway, a
double-amputee US army
vet who redefined what
girl for life. Move making
people feel an emotion
especially now, when
so many horrible things
are happening to good
people. Dance is freedom
of expression. It's about
in the moment. And as
long as you get out there
and own it, girls will fall
in love." Choreographer
Sharna Burgess
"It's so sexy when a guy walks onto a dance floor with confidence."
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON FEAVER

MORE MOTO

Ame[illegible]et cool meets Toky[illegible] carbon edge in the ultimate motorcycle jacket

[illegible] the motorcycle jacket [illegible] lines with subversive but wearable sex appeal. And the Blackmeans [illegible] jacket [illegible] Manila-based streetwear savant John Elliott certainly drives the point home. Elliott's laidback layering clothes have put him at the forefront of the new pack of men's fashion designers. Tokyo's [illegible] grew out of Japanese punk subculture, its leathers are renowned for their attention to detail and hand-crafted technique. The collaboration has produced an exemplar of the motorcycle jacket [illegible] purple calfskin with black satin lining. It's pricey, but it's the last leather jacket you'll need to buy.

[illegible] EIRNAN MONAGHA[illegible] ONAKIS

The Next Big Asian Cuisine

Filipino food is popping up all around the US

By **JULIA BAINBRIDGE**

As any casual trend spotter (translation: anyone with Instagram) knows, what happens in Williamsburg never stays in Williamsburg. And so, with a slew of openings — from 2015's Manila Social Club in the Brooklyn neighbourhood to the more recent Pinoy-Cali incubator Lasa — Filipino cuisine has been anointed in America.

Although mom-and-pop shops have been serving Filipino staples in the US for decades, this hearty and humble food is finally creeping into the mainstream, from the roving White Rabbit Truck in LA to the party-vibe Jeepney in Manhattan's East Village to the revered Bad Saint in DC. Granted, what constitutes "Filipino food" can be difficult to define. Not only is the Philippines an island country — it consists of more than 7100 specks of land floating between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean — but its colourful history means the food "is a beautiful mutt", says Yana Gilbuena, who was born in the Philippines but now lives in New York when she's not travelling the world, serving regional Filipino cuisine to groups of around 30 diners for her Salo Series pop-up dinners. "We're talking about influences from the Chinese, Arabs, Indians, Malays, Spanish, Japanese and Americans." Put that together and you have the sweet, salty, tangy, spicy food we all want to eat. "Suddenly we're the cool kids", Gilbuena says. So how did a cuisine that has been in the US for more than 50 years become an overnight sensation? As palates warm to fish-sauce funk and "other" animal bits, more people are finally ready to receive the Philippines' particular brand of hot, tart, meaty cooking.

Gilbuena's goal is to introduce eaters to more than "the ubiquitous trio" of adobo (vinegar-marinated meat), pancit (noodles) and lumpia (meaty egg rolls) found in most Filipino restaurants. That said, she recommends that newbies tour the lesser-known parts of the Filipino repertoire to get a more nuanced understanding of the cuisine. Next chance you get, order tapa (cured beef), tocino (cured pork), silog (garlic Fried rice with an egg) or the ultimate beer food, sisig, a sizzling pork dish made with all the humble cuts (namely pork face) that intrepid foodie dudes like to brag about eating. To get a baseline understanding, start with Gilbuena's adobo (recipe below).

PINOY POP-UPS

Some of the most adventurous neo-Filipino cooking is itinerant. **LASA IN LOS ANGELES.** Brothers Chase and Chad Valencia have a weekend residency at Unit 120, a culinary incubator in Chinatown. What you might find on the seasonal four-course prix-fixe menu: red snapper with black plums and fermented Fresno chillies, or twice-cooked pork belly with eggplant and bagoong (fermented shrimp paste). Lasa means "flavour" in Tagalog, and the Valencias are bringing it. **FOOD AND SH*T IN SEATTLE:** Every third Monday of the month, husband-and-wife team George "Geo" Quibuyen and Chera Amlag sell Filipino comfort food at Kraken Congee in Pioneer Square. One of their dinners included what they call "the hottest sisig ever", made with Trinidad scorpion chilli. **PELAGO IN PHILADELPHIA:** Food photographer — curator Neal Santos's mission is "to articulate Filipino culinary culture within the context of the American mid-Atlantic region." With partners Jillian Encarnacion and Resa Mueller, he throws ticketed dinner parties in spaces around the city. One evening's meat-themed menu featured kilawin na baka (beef tartare with ginger, chilli and shallots) followed by sisig cannelloni and coconut-braised greens, prepared by chef Damon Menapace.

CHICKEN ADOBO SA GATA

By Yana Gilbuena

Serves 4

As with curry in India, there are myriad recipes for the national dish of the Philippines. This one will get you started. If you can't find cane vinegar, Gilbuena says palm vinegar or even distilled white vinegar will do.

¾ cup soy sauce
¾ cup dark brown sugar
¼ cup cane vinegar
2 tbsp canola oil
4 bone-in, skin-on chicken quarters (thighs and legs), scored
2 heads garlic, crushed, skins removed, roughly diced
½ cup water
2 cups coconut milk
3 Thai chillies (optional), roughly chopped
Pinch of black peppercorns
5 bay leaves
4 scallions, white parts only, sliced thinly on a bias
Steamed short-grain white rice, for serving

Mix soy sauce, sugar and vinegar in a bowl and set aside.

In a large sauté pan or wok, warm oil over medium-high heat. Sear chicken, flipping periodically, for 10 minutes or until skin browns. About five minutes in, add garlic. Add soy-vinegar mixture to the pan, then add water and coconut milk to just cover chicken. Bring mixture to a boil, then add chillies, peppercorns and bay leaves. Reduce heat. Simmer 30 to 40 minutes. Remove chicken from the pan, reserving some of the liquid. Garnish chicken with scallions and serve with rice and liquid (for spooning over the dish) on the side.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRANT CORNETT

Vivi Estrada

Photography by **LUIS GOMEZ** *Produced By* **UNIVERSE 137 STUDIOS**

My hobbies and interests
Fitness, family traveling, movies Home décor

My goals and career ambitions
To become a full time model being published in Playboy was also one of my goals

Who inspires me
My family friends and fans

My favourite quote
Be the reason someone smiles today

Turn on
Military uniform good sense of humour good hygiene, kind caring person

Turn off
Bad hygiene and rude people

The perfect date
Dinner by the beach

My girl crush
Jennifer Aniston

My favourite food
Puerto Rican food Mofongo con Camarones

My biggest fear
To die in a car accident

One destination I'd love to visit
Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic

I'm not embarrassed to say
I've worked hard to get where I'm at right now I want to show others to be confident in themselves and anything is possible once you believe in yourself God works in amazing ways and this is just one of them

Want to see more of Vivi? Then follow her on Instagram and Twitter @viviestrada2000

Bra: 34DD
Waist: 61cm
Hips: 89cm
Height: 163cm
Weight: 52kg
Eye color: Grey

THE NEWEST JEEP DOES OLD JUST RIGHT

The last of the great Jeep Wranglers wears its military heritage on its sleeve

There are very few contemporary vehicles to which the term timelessly cool can be applied, but the Jeep Wrangler 75th anniversary edition is one of them. Sure, purists will point out that the civilian Jeep first manufactured in 1945 was the CJ-2A, not the Wrangler, which was launched in 1986. But however you slice it and whatever you call it, the Wrangler, in all its four-wheel-drive, stripped-down simplicity, is a direct descendant of the legendary CJ, and it's still the most bang-for-your-buck badass utilitarian vehicle you can get. Think we're being overdramatic? Name another ride with the same kind of history?

The fact that the Jeep (originally called the Willys MB) began as a basic mode of transportation for US troops in World War II is the foundation of its decades-long cred. The association isn't just historical. In 2006, Wrangler production moved to the same Toledo, Ohio plant that assembled the military Jeeps.

Under the hood, the speciality Jeep is equipped with the same 3.6-liter V6 engine found in other Wranglers, and it puts out a hearty 213kW and 353Nm of torque. For the most part, its performance features are the same as on standard models, aside from some extra off-road equipment.

But most people aren't going to challenge the beefy four-by-four's capabilities. It's on the aesthetic front that this special edition shines. The most arresting elements can be found in such details as the low-gloss bronze accents and commemorative badging, especially when paired on a "sarge" green model — just one of six colour options for the limited- edition Wrangler. These customisations push the starting price well past the entry level, but considering the Wrangler is one of the last models to be built on Jeep's popular JK platform, which will end its decade-long run in 2017, you can justify the expenditure as an investment in a collectible. And with Jeep's rich backstory and outstanding performance, no one will challenge your thinking. — *Marcus Amick*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHANTAL ANDERSON

RICOH
KODAK

THE GREAT KODAK SUPER 8 COMEBACK

Director JJ Abrams doesn't shoot digital. Neither do Quentin Tarantino and Christopher Nolan, for that matter. Film, they say, feels warmer, its grainy artifacts somehow more artistic. Film is also a major pain in the ass. It's unforgiving and time consuming. These are loves and lessons many filmmakers learned as pimply faced teenagers shooting ultra low budget backyard versions of *Stand By Me* on their dads' Super 8 video cameras. Now Kodak is souping up its classic lo fi device with hi fi smarts. Equal parts legacy and modernity, the new consumer Super 8 records to a film cartridge that Kodak then develops into a reel to reel and a digital file. The camera also has a flip out viewfinder and controls to adjust film speed and exposure. In an Instagram obsessed world, the updated Super 8 is a shrewd move for the film giant, one that positions it with a foot on either side of the adoption curve (why choose between being NASA or SpaceX when you can be both?). It also looks just about perfect, the Yves Béhar design is a piece of 1980s retro pop art brought to life. Don't be surprised if it winds up starring in more Vines, viral videos and 30 second spots than it can possibly shoot. — *Corinne Iozzio*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIERNAN MONAGHAN AND THEO VAMVOUNAKIS

Is It Ever Okay to Send a Dick Pic?

Q: *I matched with a girl on Tinder, and our exchanges have gone from flirtatious to hot. We have yet to meet, but I think that will happen in the near future if I keep playing it right. In the meantime, we've been texting a lot at night, and I'm close to doing something I've never done before: send a dick pic. If I do, will I be blowing the chance she'll want to hook up in real life?*

A: When I asked one of my girlfriends if it's ever okay for a guy to send her a picture of his penis, she responded, "No. Five hundred times no. Question answered." This knee-jerk reaction isn't uncommon. You can thank the miscreants who scatter unsolicited dick pics through dating apps and text messages like flyers at a college activities fair for that. You can also thank high-profile snappers Brett Favre and Anthony Weiner. These guys gave dick pics a bad name, and their subsequent public shaming and professional fallout haven't helped the cause either. I don't find unsolicited dick pics offensive, but it all depends on the context — and the recipient. A dick pic can inspire feelings of violation, amusement, attraction or pity. That broad spectrum should let you know just how much opinions vary. For some women, it's the digital equivalent of a flasher in a trench coat. There's something menacing about a guy wielding his penis like a weapon. It can be violating — and I think in some circumstances that's the intention. In other instances, I believe it's harmless exhibitionism. The biological imperative makes sense to me. A quick Google Images search of my name will result in plenty of boob shots, so it would be hypocritical of me to say I don't get it. And if I had an alien member with a mind of its own attached to my body, I'd probably be showing it off to the world too, like, "Can you believe this f*cking thing?" So, is there a time and a place? Absolutely: when a woman specifically requests one from you. Personally, I love well-lit, artful dick pics and solicit them regularly from suitors and lovers alike, who are usually more than happy to oblige. In some cases, they aren't comfortable with it, and that's fine too. That being said, there's always a grey area, such as when you're flirting and sexting and want to show her how turned on she's making you. Recently a man and I sexted after meeting at a bar. I sent him a few tasteful nudies that same night. He replied, "You wanna see my cock, baby?" He didn't assume. He asked. And his timing was perfect. The picture was hot. It was well played. When it comes to exchanging nudes, then, the same rules apply as when you're having sex. It's all about communication, consent and mutual respect. After all, a consensual sexy pic isn't sleazy; it's foreplay. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

By **BRIDGET PHETASY**

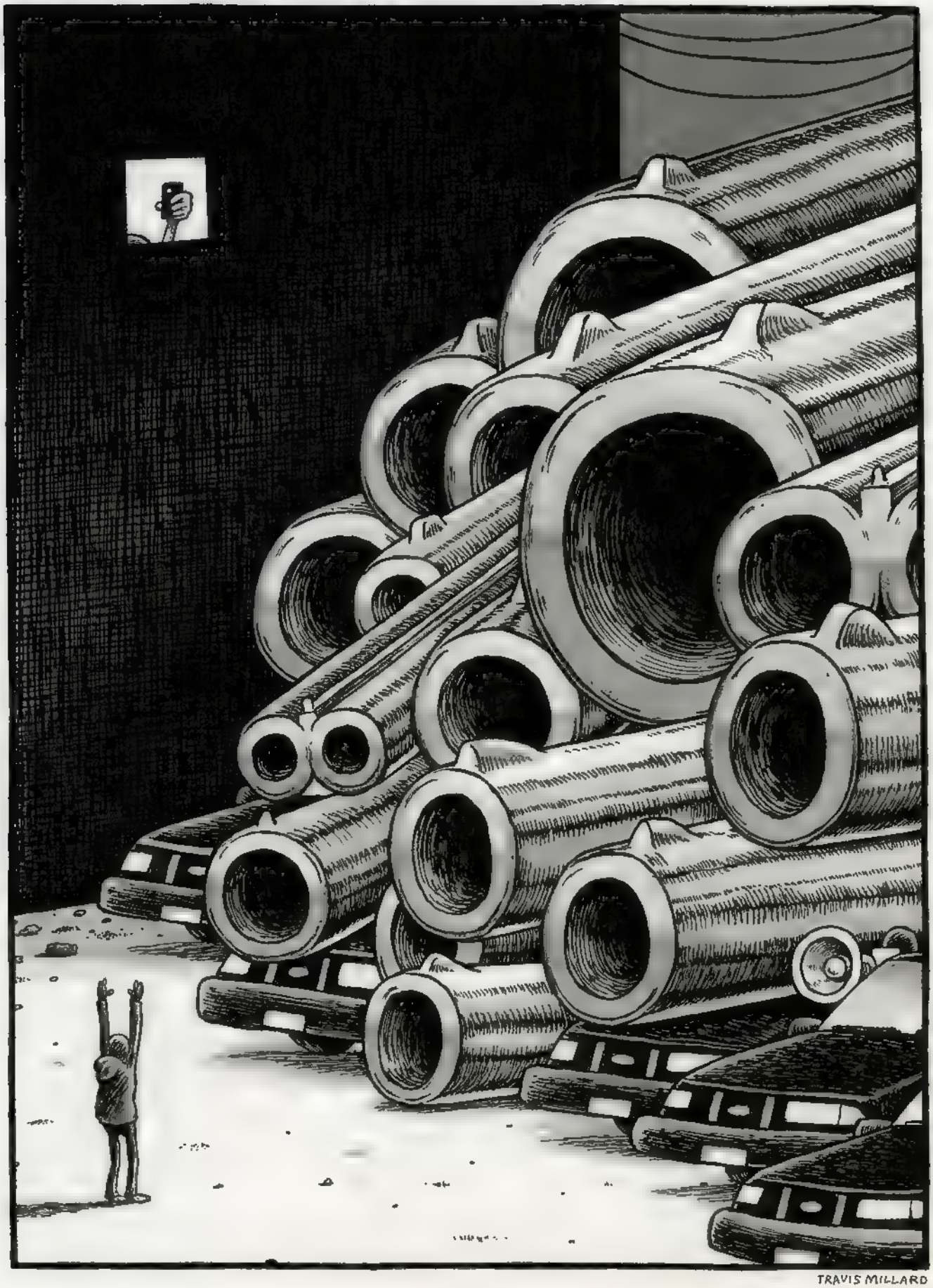
1. Don't make the mistake of thinking that once a woman sees your dick, she'll want to see it anytime during the day. There's something jarring about penises when they make surprise appearances in the wild.

2. Do your research before sending a lady your David imitation. The internet has plenty of tips for taking good dick pics. Nothing kills the mood faster than a full-length, badly lit bathroom-mirror selfie with a half chub.

3. Unless she initiates a sexy-pic exchange, don't ask for one if you don't plan to reciprocate. Sexting is an exercise in trust. You can't demand what you're unwilling to give.

4. I'll emphasise "specifically requests one" one more time. "What's up?" is not an invitation for you to send an X-rated selfie. Never send unsolicited dick pics, period. If you don't know this yet in 2017, you're the reason they get a bad rap.

ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE PERRY


TRAVIS MILLARD

JON 'BONES' JONES REGAINS HIS TITLE

Monster Energy's Jon 'Bones' Jones regains the Light Heavyweight Title with a devastating KO over his rival Daniel Cormier at UFC 214 with Bones' teammate Tyron 'The Chosen One' Woodley Retaining his Welterweight Title.

Jon 'Bones' Jones entered the octagon on the 30th of July with a vengeance after a two-year hiatus and regained his light heavyweight title after knocking out Daniel Cormier with a lethal head kick to ground and pound at UFC 214 inside the Honda Center in Anaheim, California, USA

With a dramatic rematch two years in the making, Jones came back with pure aggression, orchestrating a picture-perfect redemption to solidify his status as one of the greatest fighters of all time, and to end one of the most bitter rivalries in MMA history. Jones defeated Cormier via unanimous decision at UFC 182 and held the title from 2011 through 2015 until it was stripped from him for disciplinary action and he was suspended from UFC 187, a title defence against Anthony Johnson. Olympic wrestler Cormier replaced Jones for UFC 187 and won the light heavyweight belt.

In April 2016 Jones was ready to regain his title against Daniel Cormier, until Cormier had to withdraw due to an injury - instead Jones beat Saint Preux at UFC 197 for the interim belt, which he declined saying, "it wasn't the right belt". Then Jones' UFC 200 fight against Cormier last July was cancelled after Jones tested positive for banned substances that led to a year-long suspension. Instead Cormier fought and retained his belt against late replace-

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ment Anderson Silva. Fast forward to UFC 214 after much perseverance, leaving his two-year detour behind, Jones made a storybook comeback by finally reclaiming his UFC light heavyweight belt.

For the better half of two rounds Jones (23-1) and Cormier (19-2) didn't disappoint with a fairly even stand-up battle filled with crisp strikes and heavy grappling from both men, until Jones ended the night abruptly with a devastating kick and jumped the stunned Cormier to finish him off with a brutal ground and pound assault ending the affair at 3:01 of the third round.

A gracious and emotional Jones accepted his belt, fell to his knees after the announcement of his victory, and humbly accepted his title back by praising his former nemesis Cormier as a 'model champion'. With the win, Jones takes his 14th consecutive victory since his only career loss, which was a controversial disqualification in 2009 (Jones has never been defeated by another fighter).

What's next for Jones, perhaps moving up to heavyweight to face WWE mega star Brock Lesnar who he called out after the fight. Lesnar replied with, "Be careful what you wish for young man". Since Lesnar has a six-month suspension to finish out, Jones will most likely have to fight someone in the meantime and most true MMA aficionados are hoping for a rematch with Alexander Gustafsson who gave Jones his hardest test to date, and looked laser sharp in his last KO victory.

Jones' Monster Energy teammate Tyron 'The Chosen One' Woodley (18-3-1 MMA, 8-2-1 UFC) easily retained his welterweight title against Demian Maia who was on a seven-win streak. Woodley, a two-time All American college wrestler amazingly shut down Maia's grappling by defending a staggering 24 takedown attempts from Brazilian Jujitsu practitioner Maia, while nearly closing his eye in round one, knocking him down in round two, and badly bloodying his nose. While Woodley's clinical approach of stuffing Maia's takedowns and cautiously picking the Brazilian apart from distance wasn't fan-friendly, he did something nobody has done of late — survive the relentless Jujitsu of

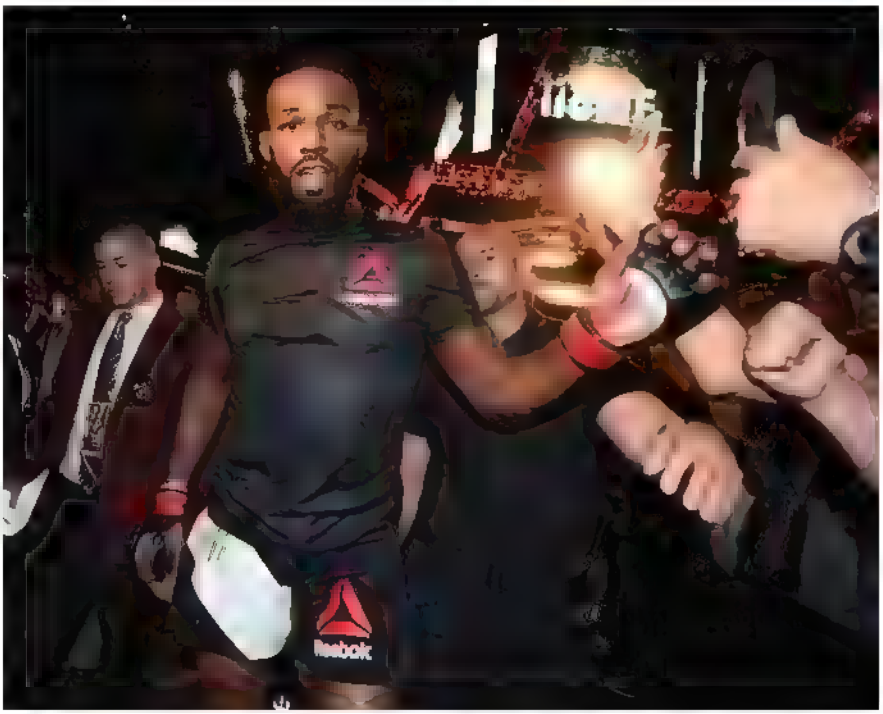
SAINT PREUX
UFC

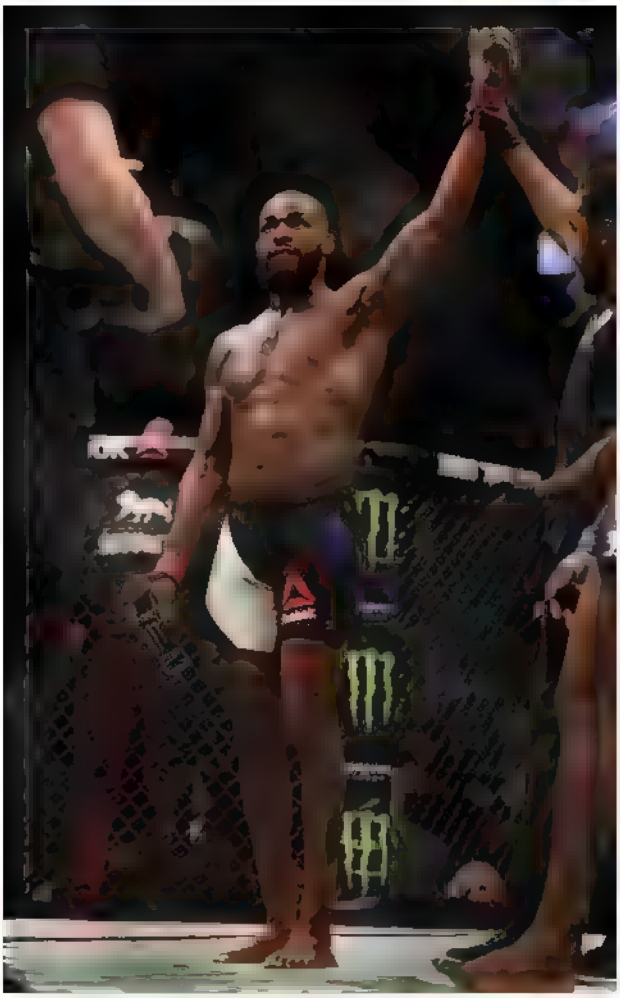
Maia and beat him. And defeat him resoundingly with a unanimous-decision victory recording scores of 50-45, 49-46,

and 49-46. After defeating two extremely stylistically difficult fighters in Stephen "Wonderboy" Thompson and Demian Maia, who nobody wants to fight, let's hope Woodley gets a more traditional freestyle fighter match up, so fans can see his offensive skills on full display.

Daniel Cormier and Jon "Bones" Jones are amongst Monster Energy's elite UFC athletes along with Conor "The Notorious" McGregor, Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone, Dominick "Dominator" Cruz, Chris 'The All American' Weidman, Tyron "The Chosen One" Woodley, Paige VanZant, Cain Velasquez and Yair Rodriquez.

For more on Jones, Cormier and Monster Energy's MMA athletes visit monsterenergy.com or follow Monster Energy on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.





ABOUT MONSTER ENERGY

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BULLETPROOF TELEVISION

Marvel's Luke Cage nods to the blaxploitation era into which its character was born — but muscles out the clichés.

Of the 40-plus new shows premiering recently, none arrived with higher expectations or stakes than Marvel's Luke Cage. It's the third Netflix-Marvel collaboration, after Daredevil and Jessica Jones, And it's the first live-action superhero series to star an African-American actor.

Making its debut in a year of boiling racial politics, Luke Cage is the story of a reluctant superhero, endowed with extraordinary strength and bulletproof skin, who takes on violence in the streets and corruption in the government — threats far more relatable than the alien hordes and sentient robots invading other superhero franchises. The series is loaded with allusions to black culture (the Harlem Renaissance, Jackie Robinson, Walter Mosley, the Tuskegee experiments, Malcolm X, Roots), but the most pervasive influence is the crop of swaggering crime thrillers, including Super Fly and Foxy Brown, that grew into their own genre in the 1970s.

"I hate the term blaxploitation, it's black empowerment", says Luke Cage show runner Cheo Hodari Coker. "Blaxploitation was a black man asserting himself in a cinematic world, kicking ass and getting the girl, being able to do the same thing as Steve McQueen or Lee Marvin. Luke Cage comes from that. The way I thought to do the character was to take that attitude and modernise it."

Marvel Comics created Luke Cage in 1972 as the story of a streetwise crime fighter in the mould of Shaft and Black Caesar, films with strong black men who take care of the little guy and look good in leather jackets. Cage-featuring titles Hero for Hire and The Defenders are dated as much by their headbands and disco blouses as they are by racial stereotypes. A lot had to change for him to survive the 21st century — a time when shows such as Empire, Jane the Virgin and Fresh Off the Boat are gaining popularity outside their demographic borders, and the announcement of future blockbusters Black Panther and Captain Marvel hints at new levels of inclusiveness in mainstream entertainment.

This Cage is still cool and still a bruiser, but now he reads Ralph Ellison and Malcolm Gladwell. "Black men in the USA, particularly with the fact that they're systematically hunted, have a lot to be angry about", Coker says. "But Luke Cage is very measured, and he doesn't act impulsively. He has strong opinions, but he has a sense of humour. He has a charm that women go crazy for, and there's a philosophical side of him that thinks about the world."

Cage made his live-action debut in 2015, as Jessica Jones's love interest and fellow crime fighter. Between the end of that show's first season and the beginning of Luke Cage, he has moved some 70 blocks north from Hell's Kitchen to lie low and work off-book for an old friend who runs a Harlem barbershop. The quiet life doesn't last long.

Adds Coker, "In the first episode, one of the villains says, 'He's about to bring it.' Luke says, 'Not the way I want to. I'd kill you.' He realises his strength, his power, and he's judicious about how he beats the shit out of these guys. He's in control of himself."

The main villains are revamps of original characters that would scare the hell out of today's guardians of political correctness: Cornell "Cottonmouth" Stokes, a butterfly-collared pimp in the 1970s comics, is reimagined by Mahershala Ali (House of Cards) as a menacing crime lord who runs Harlem's Paradise nightclub, where much of the series is set. Black Mariah, a 180kg racketeer and drug dealer in the comics, is now Mariah Dillard (Alfre Woodard, of Desperate Housewives), a corrupt and f*cking scary Harlem councilwoman. And Cage? In the hands of 1.9m, 113kg actor Mike Colter, he's also thoroughly of our time — but he retains his original superpower.

"We were in a production meeting, and someone asked if we should do something different than having the bullets bounce off Luke — that it might look like a shtick", Coker recalls. He disagreed. "I never get tired of seeing a bulletproof black man. That image of power is important to show that you can have a black superhero. I wanted the show to be unapologetically black, but there's nothing to apologise for."

Scott Porch

KEVIN HART

Kevin Hart is poised to become the biggest stand up comedian ever. Not that he's kicking back to celebrate: His movies, including Ride Along, Get Hard and Central Intelligence, have raked in more than a billion dollars globally, and yet he works like an unknown still angling for an NCIS callback. Since January 2015, Hart has appeared in half a dozen films, including What Now?, a genre hopper about his recent record breaking global comedy tour. That movie, which mixes stand up footage with a fictional James Bond style backstory, is expected to smash box office records too. Hart is also producing TV shows, building a video on demand network, partnering on tech deals and signing endorsement contracts. In other words, his life is as dazzling as that gold mic he wields on stage. No wonder he calls himself the "comedic rock star".

At 38, Hart is at the peak of his popularity, and all signs point to continued domination on screens both large and handheld. He has a keen sense that comedy today is an everywhere experience, whether you're spending an evening with him at the megaplex, buying his new Nike "Hustle Hart" sneakers or letting him guide you on the Waze app. Wherever you go, Hart's quicksilver voice and contagious energy are with you.

He was born on July 6, 1979 in Philadelphia USA, the younger of two boys. His mother, Nancy Hart, raised them, father Henry Witherspoon was a heavy drinker and coke addict who spent time in jail on drug charges. Being funny saved Kevin well before he was getting laughs professionally. At the shoe store in Philly where he worked, his pratfalls and snappy observations made him the star salesman on the floor. But "Regional Manager" wasn't going to cut it. After high school, Hart played small comedy clubs under the stage name Lil' Kev the Bastard. People urged him to quit, but he followed the paths blazed by heroes like Chris Tucker, JB Smoove and Eddie Murphy, eventually willing his way to Hollywood.

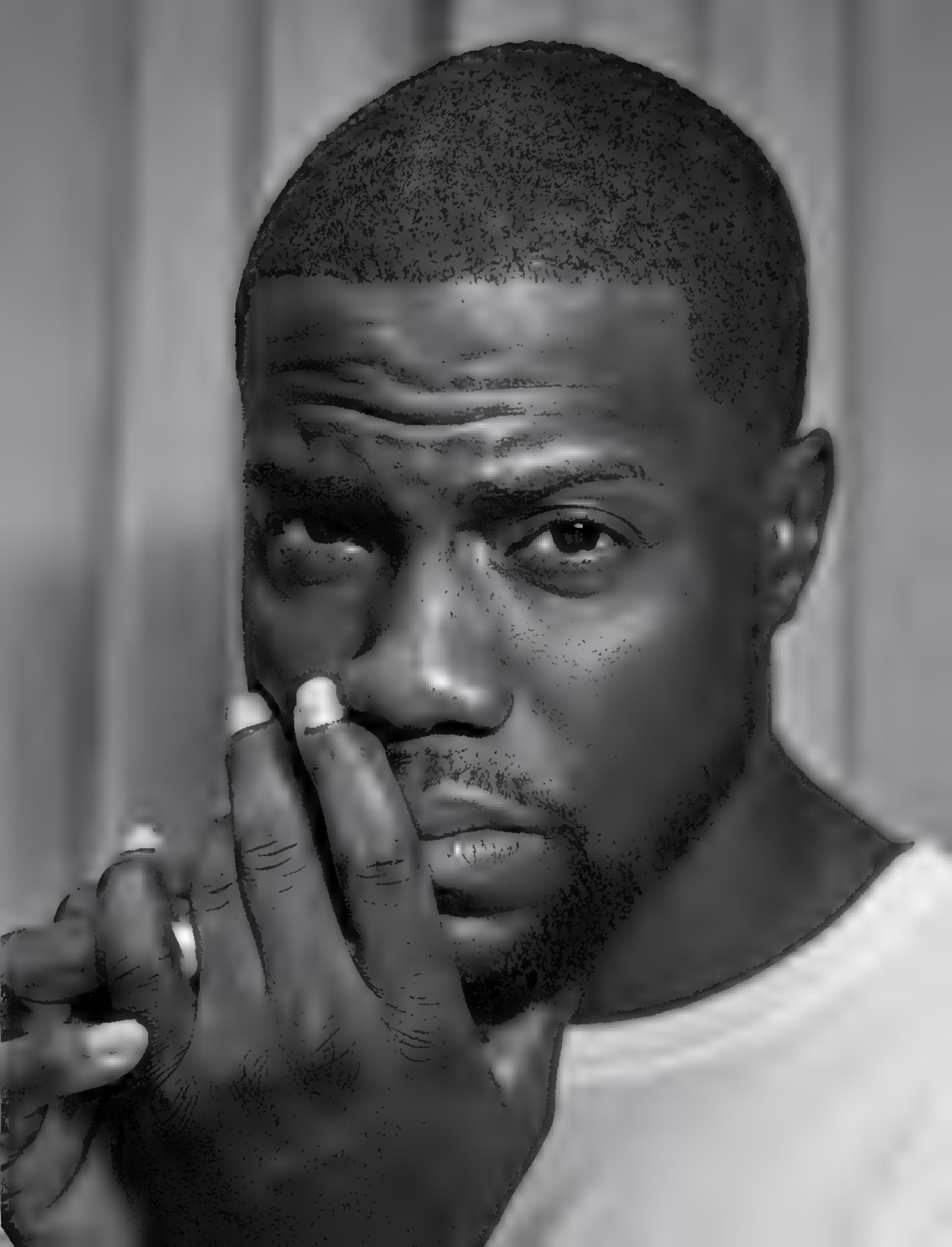
For years Hart struggled. Sitcom after sitcom tanked. *SNL* rejected him. His marriage collapsed. But he turned heartache, and even his mother's death from cancer in 2007, into gold. His 2011 *Laugh at My Pain* stand-up tour and subsequent concert film became his first real hit. The five years since have been a rocket ride. He hosted the MTV Music Video Awards, guest-starred on *Modern Family*, produced and starred on the *Real Husbands of Hollywood* series and made a handful of movies each year (*The Wedding Ringer, The Secret Life of Pets* and *Think Like a Man* and its sequel, to name a few), all but one of which went to number one. He has two young kids, Heaven Leigh and Hendrix, from his first marriage, and in 2016 Hart married model Eniko Parrish. Along the way, he became a living counterargument to an ugly show-business assumption: that African-American actors can't sell movie tickets in the global market.

Contributing Editor **David Hochman**, who last interviewed Trevor Noah for PLAYBOY, spent several days with Hart on both coasts. "Kevin's got this massive, hyperactive energy that makes you forget he's a small guy", Hochman says. The two of them hung out in the ultra-luxurious Baccarat Hotel in Manhattan, where Hart was tailoring the menu to his dramatically fitness-conscious tastes. "I'll have a burger but no cheese, no lettuce, no tomato, no onion, no sauce and definitely no bun", he told the amused waiter. "Do the same thing with a chicken patty." Says Hochman, "Kevin knows what he wants in every situation. It's not Oscars. It's beyond mere money and fame. Kevin Hart wants to be the Genghis Khan of comedy."

PLAYBOY: Your new stand-up concert film follows you on the biggest comedy tour of all time: 156 shows, 112 cities, 13 countries and five continents. That's a lot of airport body-cavity searches.

HART: You get used to it. The good thing is, flying private takes a lot of the hustle and bustle off it, makes the ins and outs a little more convenient. But the whole goal behind the tour was not only to make history but to go beyond what people would expect a comedian to do. To be able to play so many venues in so many cities and countries, to sell out multiple shows and arenas, to do stadiums

Photography by **CATHERINE SERVEL**



it blows up the idea of "You're just a guy telling jokes", right? You show the global importance of laughter

PLAYBOY: How does your material change when you're playing to a crowd in Singapore versus an audience in, say, Brooklyn or Cape Town?

HART: I change nothing nowhere. Nothing. That's the beauty of it. To become a universal comedian and really stay true to the meaning of *universal*, you come up with comedy that appeals to everyone. We set so many records. We sold 100 000 seats in New York alone, with three sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden and two more shows at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. It's completely crazy. And it's not just crazy here. My international shows sold out in three days, all with the same material and the same level of laughter. California, Cape Town — the people are amazing, and they respond. Durban, Qatar, Dubai, Singapore. Same thing everywhere. Funny is funny.

PLAYBOY: What was the toughest crowd?

HART: Well, Abu Dhabi was definitely the scariest before I got there. I was so afraid to go because I didn't want to offend anybody. I heard you could rub the culture in the wrong way. You know, because of the language and sexual content, I wondered, How far can I push it? What can I do? But I talked to people, and they said, "Kevin, these are your fans. They want you over there."

PLAYBOY: Did you really think something would happen to you?

HART: I didn't want to have a problem with a sheikh or the royal family and then not be able to get out of the country. But then I got there and it was the complete opposite. All these people dressed head to toe in the sheikhy garb, and they're roaring with f*cking laughter. It was *mind blowing*. Mind-blowing. The shit they're laughing at in Abu Dhabi is the same shit they're laughing at in Australia is the same shit they're laughing at in Philadelphia.

PLAYBOY: You sold out Lincoln Financial Field stadium, where the Eagles play in Philly. Doing stand-up for 53 000-plus people in your hometown must have been wild.

HART: That was some wild-ass shit. First time a comedian ever sold out an NFL stadium. We knew Philadelphia was going to be massive, so we turned it into a huge production. We had 84 cameras on me and a gigantic wall of screens behind me. So, my backdrop was a video wall that acted as a visual point of view that matched whatever I was saying throughout my show. As I'm joking about my house, the screens change into the set of my house. Now I'm talking about my backyard. It flips. It switches. As I'm walking out, the cameras walk with me. I wanted to transform my stand-up comedy show into something with a movie dynamic that's never been seen. And then shit starts to explode. We go all James Bond *Casino Royale* with the biggest fight scenes. Fire on the stage. A whole backstory about what happened to me leading up to the show. People say, "What the hell are you doing, Kevin?" But with a movie like this, it can't just be me coming out and telling jokes. We're too big for that. The production has to be big. I paid too much not to go huge. I'm in with finances for about R184 million on this one.

There's this idea that actors of colour don't sell movies outside the US. Look at me and Cube.

PLAYBOY: You personally financed all this?

HART: Out of my damn pocket. Every cent. This is all me. I fully financed a movie, and Universal distributed it. They act as a partner. I know me. I know my value. When you're dealing with other people's money, you can't control it. But when you invest in yourself, you're in charge and the rewards come to you.

PLAYBOY: Some have predicted this could be the highest-grossing stand-up concert film of all time.

HART: That is the plan. I'm going for the win on this one, you know? Eddie Murphy still holds the record for stand-up concert film for Raw, at $50 million in gross. My last concert film, *Let Me Explain*, did $32 million, but that was on only 900 screens or something like that. This one is on screens everywhere. All signs are pointing that this could be the big one. This could achieve the highest level of success ever. It's all part of the progression.

PLAYBOY: But does bigger equal funnier?

HART: I grow with my fan base, man. I grow and I change. If you look at my stand-up specials — if you look at I'm a *Grown Little Man* and then at *Seriously Funny* and *Laugh at My Pain*, you see it. So *What Now?* shows my progression not only as a comedian but just as a man. You see me going through things. You've seen me married. You've seen me go through a divorce. You've seen the consequences of divorce. You've seen my kids grow up, and as they've grown, how I've changed. Now that I've changed, how do I feel? How do I feel about where I am, people treating me, the places I put myself in, my relationship with my family?

PLAYBOY: What's it like when you come across one of your old stand-up routines now?

HART: It can be weird. I was watching *Grown Little Man* recently, and the way I'm touching the mic, you can see my nervous energy. I'm not comfortable, at least not at the level I'm at now. I'm also rushing. You'd think somebody was chasing me with a machete. The speed is off the hook. There's no break. Now I see a guy who's full of fear. You're out there on stage and you look up, you see all the people, and there's real tension. *All right, I don't want to lose these people.* Now I feel like I'm much more in command. It's all about growing and improving. I want to continue to get better as a stand-up.

PLAYBOY: Not that your movie career is hurting. In 2016 alone, your credits have included *What Now?*, *Ride Along 2*, *Central Intelligence* and *The Secret Life of Pets*.

HART: [*Laughs*] Yeah, I feel like a slacker if I don't have a movie coming out every two months.

PLAYBOY: Chris Rock joked at the Oscars that he can't afford to lose another role to you. What do you make of the complaint that African-American actors don't get the same opportunities in Hollywood as white actors?

HART: First of all, Chris is a great friend. I thought it was a great joke. Here's my opinion. When people speak of the diversity issue in Hollywood or the lack of actors or actresses of colour, I'm not going to sit up here and play dumb to it and act like it isn't an issue. But at the same time, when you bring more attention to an issue, it becomes a bigger issue. Whereas if you try to figure out a solution and do things to help position yourself or people of different races, shapes and sizes to have more options, that's where you can be of service. If you're not making shit happen, you just become a part of the problem. You know what I mean?

PLAYBOY: But how does the problem get fixed?

HART: For me, I'm actually doing some of the stuff that people are saying black performers aren't getting the opportunity to do. That includes taking my movies international. You know there's this idea that actors of colour don't sell movies outside the US, but look at what me and Cube did. The first two *Ride Alongs*, you're looking at something like $278 million in worldwide box office revenue with two African-Americans as your leads. And yet no attention was thrown to the fact that we were breaking major ground, because so many people were focusing on what wasn't happening in the industry. I can't get stuck on the negative. Let's keep grinding. Let's go to 25 countries and promote the hell out of it. Then let's come back and do another one. Now, whether we do a *Ride Along 3* or not, what Cube and I have is special, and we know it can work here and around the world. Same thing we saw with *Straight Outta Compton*, a major success domestically and internationally. Universal Studios saw it. They got it.

PLAYBOY: You almost always share the screen with a major co-star, whether it's Ice Cube, the Rock or Will Ferrell. Is there any reason you don't do a straight-up Kevin Hart movie? Where's your *Beverly Hills Cop*?

HART: I'm just slowly building up to it. It's not like you can walk in and tell the studio, "All right, give me all your money. I'm ready to do the $100 million movie." I mean, I can go in and say that, but here's the thing. I've had one number-two movie. Every other movie I've done has been number one at the box office. My fans love what I'm doing. I'm also switching it up, you know? I've been lucky enough to be part of two franchises. I got *Think Like a Man, Think Like a Man Too, Ride Along, Ride Along 2 and possibly Ride Along 3*. And it's not like I haven't done

any Kevin Hart movies. My stand-up concert films are my movies. *The Wedding Ringer* was like a Kevin Hart movie, and it was a good movie. That's Kevin Hart's name in the lights, nobody else's.

But there's a reason I'll go do *Central Intelligence* with the Rock. It still makes sense to do that, because to become that international star, you want to get with somebody who can help you achieve that. The Rock is that guy. So, for us to team up and have that pairing was amazing. I also broke into the animation space with *The Secret Life of Pets* and now *Captain Underpants*.

PLAYBOY: Would you ever do a drama?

HART: It's in the works. I'm going to do *The Untouchables* with Bryan Cranston. It's a remake of the French movie The Intouchables. That'll be my first and I'm looking at another one, but I'm slow walking into these things. To be honest, I'm not looking for the artsy stuff, the stuff that's going to go under the radar for a group of intellectual people to watch and say [*in highfalutin voice*], "Oh, this is one of the most marvelous films." I'm about box office success. But sure, after I'm done having fun and achieving the box office successes, then I'll go and take the risk of doing the more serious, more dramatic. But if I'm trying to break international waters and show the world that comedies do play overseas with lead actors of colour, you don't just try to do it all by yourself — then people start saying you can't do it. But my numbers add up. No matter what anybody says, Kevin Hart is bankable.

PLAYBOY: You have 20 million-plus followers on Facebook, 30.5 million on Twitter and 40 million on Instagram and Snapchat. Does that ever freak you out?

HART: Are you kidding me? Anything that gives you the opportunity to test out material and get an instant reaction from a population as big as a country? It's a godsend. If I want to test out a joke, I put it out to my followers and see in five seconds what works and what doesn't. That's changing comedy. For people coming up, not only can you test out your material, but you build that fan base. You get 100 000 or 500 000 followers and now you can say, "Hey, you should invest in me and my idea because they love me on Twitter or Facebook or Instagram or whatever." Periscope? I love that shit too.

When you look at what a guy like, say, Mark Zuckerberg has done, it's amazing. I haven't met him yet, but I can't wait to. I'll probably have 5000 questions for the guy. I just love the fact that he's creative and what he's done with that company. I also really love Snapchat right now. You see somebody like DJ

Khaled on there. You got to take your hat off to him for re-creating himself. He's found a niche. The Rock is funny as hell on Snapchat too. If you're a comedian in 2016 and you're not jumping into the tech space, you're going to get left behind. Me? I'm not being left behind. You know why? I've got Kevmojis.

PLAYBOY: Kevmojis?

HART: That's right, Kevmojis! Everybody uses animated emojis, but Kevmojis are real photos of my face doing a million different twists and turns. How many people have the ability to really change up their face that many times? Not many, that's who. So, I went and did a bunch of different facial expressions, and now you can use them instead of that little yellow smiley-face shit people use. I'm always thinking, always building, always moving to whatever's new and exciting. That's why I hashtag ComedicRockStarShit. I know people are looking at their phones and seeing me surpass just being a comedian.

PLAYBOY: For someone who loves his devices, you're unusually strict about audiences not using phones at your live shows. A woman in Iowa City was arrested after she called a friend during one of your gigs.

HART: I told you there's a lot of money invested in my shows, and I don't want to see that money go down the drain because everybody's filming me and putting that shit on YouTube. More than that, you want people to watch. Enjoy it, people. Put yourself in a position where you can laugh. As much as I love social media, at these live shows, it distracts people from actually seeing and enjoying the show, because everybody is worried about getting that great piece of footage to show to their Twitter friends or on Facebook Live or whatever. I can't stand it in my own house. My kids love their screens. I don't remember the last time my kids went outside and kicked a stick or something. So, at my shows, I don't want your mind on footage. I want your mind on me on the stage. Again, I'm taking entertainment to a level it's never been before, and I want people right there with me.

PLAYBOY: Did you always have this level of ambition?

HART: No. Actually, here's the crazy part. As a kid in school, I had no real desire to reach the highest levels of education. I was not that guy. But I've always been a person who pushed to the ultimate realm of things that I loved. If I had a passion for something, I figured out a way to be the best at it. That started with video games: *Tecmo Bowl, Double Dribble*, remember those? These are the games of the past, but it was me trying to figure out everything I possibly could to have an edge. Then basketball became the passion. I wanted to go to the NBA. I said, "Mom, I want trainers. I want to take private lessons. I want to be in the gym all day." And I would spend all day in the gym.

PLAYBOY: Your mother was a computer analyst at the University of Pennsylvania. Clearly she was smart enough to see that you weren't NBA material.

HART: Hell no! My mom was the opposite of a dream killer. She was the person who told me I could do anything I put my mind to. Her thing was: Anything you start, you have to finish. You start a book, you finish the book. You start a sport, you finish the season. It's still the major rule we live by in my household. We don't quit. I don't care if you don't like it. My kids get into some new project, it's got to get done. I went as far as I could in basketball, but then, yeah, you go, Okay, maybe somebody like me could excel even more in another line of business.

PLAYBOY: Your dad was in and out of jail, and you've joked on stage about him showing up at your school spelling bee on a cocaine high, shouting, "All right, all right, *all right*! My son's spellin' the shit out of these mother*ckin' words!" How much of that is true?

HART: Shit's not funny unless it's true to life, and nothing was funnier to me growing up than my mom and dad's relationship.

PLAYBOY: But he was actually stealing money from you to buy drugs, right? Where's the comedy in that?

HART: He was stealing, 100 percent. From me, from other people. But honestly, this is the beauty of who I am. I've always had the ability to find a positive in any negative. Coming up, of course, what kid doesn't want his parents to be happily married? You want to wake up every day and see mom and dad in the morning, being all snuggly with you and lovey-dovey, and then good night. Every kid wants that. For me, I didn't have it, so I had to deal with what was there. My parents weren't fond of each other. They were hot and cold and frozen cold, and my dad could be crazy. So, my mom would let him have it. He'd come home with stuff he bought. "That's probably stolen!" she'd say. "That stuff can't come in this house." I'd be thinking, But, look how cool these toys are. She'd go, "You ain't touching that stuff. Set it down. We're going to give it back in the morning." Then my dad would be like, "Ain't nobody stole that stuff!" Mom would go, "You did steal it". "No, I didn't." "Then bring a receipt. You got a receipt? Then he can keep it." I'm like, What? Why am I the butt of this stuff? Even if he did steal it, it's sitting right here waiting for me to play with. But my mom would always win.

Shit's not funny unless it's true to life, and nothing was funnier than my mom and dad's relationship.

PLAYBOY: Is it true she died before she ever saw you perform?

HART: She died in 2007, so she saw my success. But she never saw me do stand-up because, you know, she was a churchgoing woman. The language and all that was not something she was going to enjoy. But I know she's watching over me now. She's seeing it all. That's my angel. I definitely believe in heaven. I believe that when you pass away there is a place where these positive spirits go, and I feel like I have one. Them days you feel are your toughest days, you're okay, because you've got somebody pushing you in

the direction to smile

PLAYBOY: You had it pretty tough coming up as a comedian. Didn't someone once throw a chicken wing at you?

HART: Yeah, yeah. [*laughs*] Somebody was that frustrated with my material that they decided to throw a half-eaten buffalo wing at me. Sloppy sauce and all. And you hear the worst stuff when you're starting out and nobody knows you. "Brother, this ain't for you. You need to f*cking do something else." That wasn't just the audience, it was friends, family, peers, whoever. All that stuff is nothing to me but ammunition. People say, "No, you can't". Well, here I am, mother*cker. But even so, you look around and you're playing at some shitty-ass places. In the early days in Philly I was doing bowling alleys and nightclubs, strip clubs, people's living rooms, places that weren't conducive to comedy at all.

PLAYBOY: You were turned down by *Saturday Night Live* too.

HART: Lorne Michaels and I joke about that now. He's been doing this for so long and he knows comedy. He lives it. You can only admire a person who's given his life and devoted himself at the highest levels of entertainment for more than 40 years. I was probably just having an off day. That wasn't my only rejection. I was the death of every sitcom I was on for a while. You struggle, but you keep going. It's the only way. I think that's why you have certain stars and why some people can't make it in show business. I think the ones who made it are the ones who heard the word no and didn't let it affect them and were strong enough to hear the word no again and still continue. I'm actually glad I struggled, because I can look back and connect yesterday's lows to the highs I'm experiencing now.

PLAYBOY: By the way, how's your relationship with your father these days?

HART: Oh, he saw the mistakes he was making and the people he was hurting. He's in his late 60s and clean as a whistle. My dad is a man's man. His pride is heavy, but he got to a point where he wanted to be a father and make up for a lot of the mistakes he made with my brother and me. My brother held more of a grudge, but I'm different. I'm just a forgiving person. I take care of him now.

PLAYBOY: Did you ever worry about those addiction genes passing down to you? What's your history with drugs and booze?

HART: I'll tell you what. Having the knowledge about what drugs and alcohol did to him was the greatest gift he gave me. Now I can tell you 100 percent, "Hey, man, don't do drugs. That shit will f*ck you up." My dad got f*cked-up bad. I mean, I'm human. I've done things in the past, but I'm not a drug guy. I drink. I'm not abusive with drinking.

I'm very much in control of what's going on, but that's a combination of my mom and my dad. My dad's mistakes became beams of light to me. My mom's strict rules of behaviour are the reason I'm in line.

PLAYBOY: Who were the people who made you want to get into comedy?

HART: Redd Foxx. Eddie Murphy. I had to sneak around to listen to Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Sam Kinison, Andrew Dice Clay, Chris Rock. My mom wouldn't allow that in the house. She let me watch Sinbad because he was clean. Seinfeld. Martin Lawrence. There were others, of course.

PLAYBOY: Did you purposely leave Bill Cosby off the list?

HART: No. Bill Cosby was a huge influence. He's still a comedic legend, and his impact on me remains massive. What he has done in his personal life, I obviously don't support. If all arrows point to him doing what all these women say he did, then I hope he'll be dealt with accordingly. But I still have his picture up in my house. He's one of my comedy heroes.

PLAYBOY: So often we hear about the private troubles of our favourite icons. Prince was supposed to be a clean-living Jehovah's Witness. Then he dies of a drug overdose.

HART: Yeah, you don't know what goes on behind those closed doors. But Prince lived his life the way that he wanted to live it. He was one of the most intimidating men to meet, I'll tell you. Somebody like Prince, you don't want to go and talk and be stupid. The one time I met him, I didn't even want to make eye contact as he was walking by. You're like, shit, here he comes. Okay, look down. All right, wait a minute. He smells good. Is he gone? What? He wants to say hi. Hey, P-P-P— do you even call him Prince? I'm confused. So, you go, "Hey, man", and that sounds stupid. The man was such a talent. You don't want to tarnish his legacy. Digging up and finding speculations about people — it won't bring him back, so why bother?

PLAYBOY: What about the next generation of entertainers? Who are you watching?

HART: In comedy, if I had to put together a quick list, there's Lil Rel — I think he's very funny. William "Spank" Horton, Na'im Lynn, Joey Wells. Those are guys who've been with me for a long time and I think are very talented comedians. Keith Robinson. I mean, tons of comedians in New York. I came up with that I would love to see get a shot. David Arnold, who I was producing something for. Corey Holcomb. These are guys I think have

an amazing comedic perspective and point of view and could become huge names. A lot of these guys will be featured on a new network I've launched called Laugh Out Loud. It's a new video-on-demand network in partnership with Lionsgate. We just shot 52 comedy specials last summer. I want this to be a multicultural platform for comedy, stand-up comedy, miniseries, viral content. I want this to be a hub where people will go.

PLAYBOY: What motivates you to do so much? Didn't you also sign a big sneaker endorsement deal in 2016?

HART: First-ever sneaker endorsement for a comedian, that's right. Why stop, you know? The Nike deal grew out of my love for physical fitness, and I love the fact that I now have a platform for that. I was out of shape. Well, I thought I was in shape, but I wasn't, so I decided to get into shape. I started doing 800 to 1000 sit-ups throughout the day. I bench about 120kg. Being in shape motivates me to do other things too. You have to look at yourself and go, what am I doing? I want to do action movies? I want to be an action-comedy star? I can't be an action-comedy star looking like this [*slouches and blows out gut*]. So now that I'm getting my act together, let me see if I can get other people who want to get it together. So I started doing 5Ks, putting the call out on Instagram and whatnot, and people started joining us. Thousands of people. We've gotten crowds of people of all shapes, sizes and ethnicities, and they come out to challenge themselves for that day. You hear the stories. "Hey, Kevin, thank you for getting me out of my bed to come run." "Hey, I had triple-bypass surgery and I was just lying around not doing anything, but you made me want to get up and get myself together." "Hey, man, I'm a cancer survivor." When you start to see the effect you have on people and you start to see the faces and hear the stories, you know you're doing something right. It's the satisfaction of knowing that I motivated people. That's another effect I'm having on the world. You have your window of time here on earth, and you want to try everything.

PLAYBOY: Don't you ever just want to take a vacation?

HART: We go and do stuff, sure. I'm very much a family man. When dad goes to work, he's working for a couple weeks, but then I'll be back for a couple weeks, and we want to do something fun. We'll go to Orlando. It's not about Disney World or anything like that. It's us, house, nice little barbeque setting, the family doing three meals a day. I'll tell you, the best party is just me and my wife with my kids. Nerf gun fights with the babies, movie night, taco night, game night. We love to play [Ellen DeGeneres's app] Heads Up. My kids make me smile. No matter how bad it gets out here, knowing that they're okay, that calms me down.

PLAYBOY: You got married last summer. What did you learn from your first marriage, which ended in divorce?

When people go, "Man, you're short", I'm like, Oh, good job, sir. You cracked that case.

HART: I was 22 years old. What happened happened when it was supposed to. I'm where I am now in my relationship for a reason, and I'm happy. At some point, you're not going to keep searching. What else are you trying to find? You eventually go, all right, this is it. I'm going to die with this one.

PLAYBOY: Tell us about a recent splurge. You like cars and watches, judging from your Instagram.

HART: I bought the new Benz truck. I love it. The G65 is a major upgrade from the G63. I also recently had my Shelby rebuilt from the ground up. It's a beautiful 1966 hatchback Eleanor, black with silver streaks. I get something big for myself every time I do a big movie or project. The Shelby was from the first *Ride Along*. I got a Mercedes SLS AMG for *Laugh at My Pain*. My Ferrari 458 Italia is from *Let Me Explain*. I bought my house from *Think Like a Man*. Other than that, I'll buy myself a watch. Those are definitely my weakness. I like Cartier, Rolex, Richard Mille, Patek Philippe. That's my guilty pleasure right there. It's a little bit of an addiction.

PLAYBOY: Do you ever worry about losing it all, going MC Hammer and blowing through the cash?

HART: No worries there, man. Can't do that when you're doing the right thing. If you spend more than what you're making, that's your fault. If you're in for $15 million on something, and all you've got is $8.5 million, that choice is going to crush you. The hard thing with money is I try not to let it change or affect who I am or who I'm shaping up to be. I don't want the money to play a major factor in it. You don't want to become one of these guys who can't zip up his own pants or put on socks or open a door for himself. People get like that. They get so rich they forget how to be a normal human. The trick is to stay close to people, to get out there in the public, to run in Central Park, to talk to people, to observe, to be real. It's easy at a certain success level to isolate yourself and disappear into a castle of your own making.

PLAYBOY: Let's move on. Do you have any thoughts on the race for the White House?

HART: I'm not a major political guy. It's not my cup of tea. I don't put my foot in that stuff. But I'm definitely going to miss Barack Obama. Amazing man. Michelle Obama, amazing woman. The fact that I had dinner at a White House Christmas gathering with the first black President of the United States, that's one for the lifetime highlights reel.

PLAYBOY: What do you make of Donald Trump?

HART: What I can say is that I have no ill will towards him or his campaign, but I'm a people person. I love people. I love the idea of people coming closer together. My whole job is to unite people. You go to my shows, there's all races there. So the idea of separating and segregating and dividing because of what someone believes in, that's not something I could ever get behind. I try to understand people and accept them, but it can be difficult sometimes. Then again, I have entertainer friends who are widely misunderstood, and if you get to know them, you see what's really going on.

PLAYBOY: Who comes to mind?

HART: Kanye is probably number one in that

category. He's a good friend. You can say what you want about Kanye and his approach, but the passion behind what he's fighting for is real, and I really believe he's misunderstood because of his passion. He's a monumental talent. His last album, *The Life of Pablo*, is incredible. Best line of all time: "Name one genius that ain't crazy." There you go. That's Kanye in a sentence. He's admitting that he's crazy but also calling himself a genius at the same time. Same respect goes out to Justin Bieber. The Biebs is my man. His last album is also f*cking amazing, and he's a guy who does whatever he needs to do to be himself, no matter how much shit he gets for it.

PLAYBOY: You spend time with Jay Z too. What's that like?

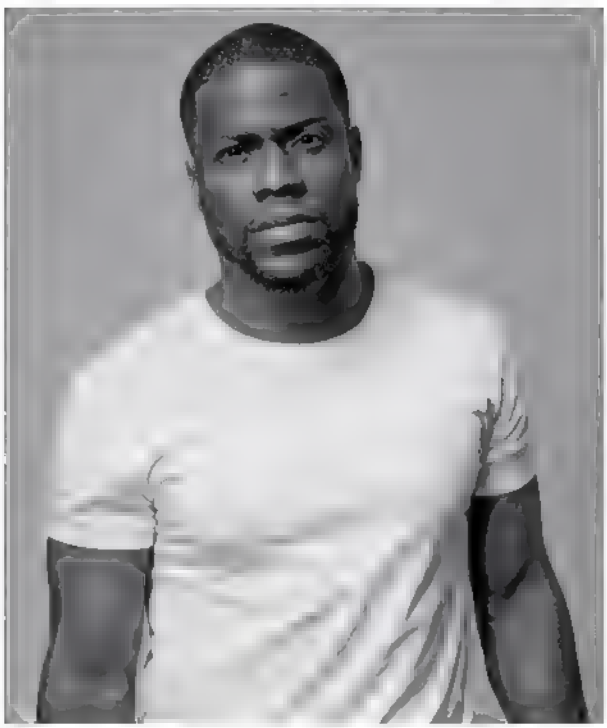
HART: He's the king. It's like being with the king. To be honest, I'm a sponge when I'm around that guy. You just sit there and soak up information on how he does what he does, man. You see a guy who is not content and constantly pushing and stretching. I mean, look at Tidal and the flak people gave Tidal when it first came out. "What is this shit? It's gonna fail." Everybody wanted it to fail. Nobody saw potential. Now look at it. Tidal has over 3 million subscribers. He's doing something right. When you think about Jay Z, you're looking at a guy who has so much success in music, but he took that music, and took the money from music, and turned himself into a business and created X, Y and Z, and now sits at the top of Roc Nation as a mogul. You can't fight what people are destined to be.

PLAYBOY: What about your destiny? What's on the horizon for Kevin Hart?

HART: There's definitely an exit plan. I'm not going to give away too much about it, but it's a retirement plan. I'm not going to be 50 years old and grinding at the level I'm doing it now. The reason I'm building these things and putting all these pieces together is because, at a certain age, I want to say, Okay, I did it, and now it's time to enjoy myself, and enjoy myself doesn't mean partying it up, and being on a yacht and dancing and stuff like that. It means enjoying my home, enjoying my kids, enjoying the foundation that I built.

PLAYBOY: Is there anybody you envy?

HART: I wouldn't say envy, but I certainly admire what Eddie Murphy has been able to do. I think he's very happy. I know him well. He's very happy in his relationship. He just had a baby and already has tons of kids. He doesn't seem to be bothered by any piece of negativity. He plays his music. He has his hobbies. I mean, at a certain age, you have to understand, it's about being at ease. It's about doing what you want to do and not what people want you to do. And when you look at the people who really get that and understand that, I guess you could say I am envious of that. Dave Chappelle — again, people can say what they want. Dave Chappelle, he's all right, man. He's a guy who is very much in control of his life.



He has a farm with tons of animals on it, and he has his kids and his wife, and he has his wonderful life. He's set up, he's not answering to anybody, and I'm very proud to call that guy a friend. I want to be like that one day.

PLAYBOY: If that's what you want, why not just buy the farm now and call it a day?

HART: All in good time. I'm doing what I want to do. I'm doing it at the level that I want to do it, but what people have to understand is that there's a difference in entertainment between working because you have to work and working because you love to work. I love to work. I love entertainment. I love stand-up comedy. I love making people laugh. I love embracing my fans. I love giving my fans content. I love the fact that I can make a movie and people watch the movie and say, "That guy makes my day." I'm in love with that.

For me, stand-up comedy is bigger than the title "stand-up comedy." Stand-up comedy is an effect. I have an effect on people. I have the ability to change your day in a positive way. I have the ability to light your day up. I take pride in that. I don't take that for granted. If you feel like you're just going through the motions in life, you can turn on a Kevin Hart movie or Kevin Hart stand-up, and you know what? You laugh, and it takes your mind off whatever that may be. Give me your stress and I'll take it away. That's the true art of comedy. That's why, regardless of whatever negativity I've taken from critics or even other comedians, I'm true to my fraternity of comics, because very few people can do what we do. I got chosen as one of the guys who are funny. Thank you, God. I get it. Now my goal is to be the best at it. I'm going to do what I can to be the best and the biggest.

PLAYBOY: You talk about being the biggest. Be honest: Does it offend you when people make fun of your height?

HART: When people go, "Man, you're short", I'm like, Oh, good job, sir. You cracked that case. What a genius! It's the thing that people have known for the last how many years I've been in entertainment? But you just figured it out. It doesn't bother me, no. I'm good either way. You can't offend me.

PLAYBOY: Great. In that case, one last question. Are you sure you're not driving so hard to overcompensate for, you know, some other physical shortcoming?

HART: [*Cocks head and lets eyes go wide*] All right, brother, all right. I don't know what to tell you, man. I'm happy. I'm very happy. I'm happy over here and I'm happy down there. Definitely happy. That's the best way to put it. That's my truest way. I'm not overcompensating for anything. I am in a great space. A great space. I'm living it! Things are flying! Life is good! It's great being Kevin Hart! ■

Arielle
Ray

About me
Growing up in Kansas, USA with not much to do really fine tunes your imagination would get the neighbourhood kids together and we would shoot a film with my camcorder from whatever movie was into at the time. I remember my punishment if I got into trouble was no 'Grease' for the day. I always wanted to create and do something with the camera whether I was in front or behind. I guess I just want a life where work is my passion. Success and knowledge are important to me. I don't know what the meaning of life is exactly but I think it has something to do with happiness. I'm constantly on a journey of self improvement and evolving into what I hope is a better version of me every day.

My goals and career ambitions
I have lots of goals and career ambitions and they all range in the creative fields. An actor's dream to me would be going from set to set. That's my major goal for sure. Playing all sorts of characters would be amazing. I really look up to Charlize Theron in "Monster" and Sharon Stone in "Basic Instinct". To me those are classics. I want to be in classics. I also want to try stand up comedy at some point because it seems like the scariest thing to do. I'm currently writing with my girlfriend. We want it to be a TV show someday when it's all said and done. A group of us actors just started an improv troupe we have only practised so far. Further down the line I would eventually like to direct, own a production company and be the head of a studio. I like to draw and design but right now that's more of a hobby. I'm sure more things will come up and be eliminated as I evolve but for now that's all of it. I think I have a lot to do.

My hobbies and interests
I get to do what I love the things that make me happiest are creating something and watching it come to life. I find it so fun having the image in your head then seeing it come to fruition. Creative endeavours are really exciting for me. I love concerts and music and to see and try new things. I am always looking for an adventure.

Who inspires me
I find inspiration in all sorts of people. Most people I meet have their own special quality that I can find inspiration in. But I do have a few that stick out for me. Marilyn had this certain light about her that I cherish. She smiles and you want to smile too. She took control of a room and lit up the world, and her presence lives on. Now that's something I grew up watching. Lucille Ball. She was so goofy and free. She made it all look so fun. She was a persistent, strong woman. When Hollywood told her "no" she kept going. Lady Gaga also inspires me with her boldness. She embraces and accepts who she is as I think everyone should.

My favourite quote
Do you want to be right or do you want to be happy?

Turn on
Someone who can teach me about something I don't know. Oh and he's got to make me laugh too.

Turn off
Someone who doesn't respect my time or is a show off.

The perfect date
Spending the entire time laughing and contemplating life and when you finally look at your phone it's passed your bed time.

My girl crush
Charlize Theron

My favourite food
It changes but I'm always happy with a bag of popcorn.

My biggest fear
Currently it would be trying stand up. What if I'm not funny or I can't even speak when I get on the stage? So many what ifs. And in the long haul it would be not living up to my full potential and letting myself down.

One destination I'd love to visit
A Blue Zone

I'm not embarrassed to say
This doesn't really embarrass me but I feel like people would be embarrassed for me. I don't wash my hair that much. I just use lots of dry shampoo. Oh and I talk to myself. Everyone should try it I think it's healthy.

For more of Arielle's adventures you can follow her on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat @thearielleray

Bra 34DD
Waist 66cm
Hips 86cm
Height 170cm
Weight 57kg
Eye Colour Blue

"THE THINGS THAT MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST ARE CREATING SOMETHING AND WATCHING IT COME TO LIFE."

The Reluctant Rap Star

American North Long Beach native Vince Staples has broken just about every rule in the hip hop playbook. So what does he stand for?

From Tupac Shakur to Lil B, rappers have long embraced the make-it-and-move narrative. "I made a little money, then I moved my mama/Yeah straight out the hood", Rich Homie Quan says in "Water". In "The Watcher", Dr Dre raps, "I moved out the hood for good, you blame me?" And Ice Cube's "Once Upon a Time in the Projects" is a whole cautionary tale about hanging around the hood.

Don't expect any such songs from Vince Staples. "That's the most ignorant thing", he says. "To me, that translates to 'If we want to do better, we have to get away from black people'. It's impossible to feel good about doing bad if you have a strong connection to the people in your community." The 23-year-old is so proud of his native North Long Beach, California that he dedicated a song to thrills not found in any travel guide. On "Norf Norf", from his 2015 Def Jam debut, Summertime '06, he offers a new slogan for the LBC: "We Crippin', Long Beach City, pay a visit." What's more, he still resides there.

Staples has just stepped out of Hamilton Middle School in North Long Beach, where he dropped in on the kids at the Youth Institute, a new YMCA initiative he helped establish. A few blocks away sits Ramona Park, a landmark he name-checks in the sleepy, ominous "Ramona Park Legend, Pt. 2". The struggle crystallised in that song — "It's so hard, trying not to go so hard" — is precisely why he donated to the program, which gives kids the opportunity to learn film making and music production instead of gangbanging.

The latter is what Staples studied. Growing up, he attended Christian schools and excelled at every sport he tried, but his father was affiliated. The elder Staples made him promise he'd never touch the stuff he watched his pop chopping up (to this day, Staples doesn't drink or do drugs), but the pull of the streets and the appeal of the family business were strong. His 2014 song "Nate" begins, "As a kid all I wanted was to kill a man/Be like my daddy's friends, hoppin' out that minivan". Eventually he became a 2N Crip. Although the most detailed accounting you'll get of that time is in his songs, Staples allows that "backlash is still there, probably. But I'm not worried about it; it's part of life".

Rapping happened almost by accident. Friendly with members of the sprawling LA collective Odd Future, he crashed at producer Syd tha Kyd's studio one night in 2010, after his mom had kicked him out, and recorded a verse on Earl Sweatshirt's song "epaR". In the fall of 2014, his debut EP, Hell Can Wait, a collection of bleak hood tales told by a realist in the cold light of dawn, received critical raves. By Summertime '06, he'd earned the respect of everybody from dudes kicking it on the corner to The New York Times. His new EP, Prima Donna, should secure his place as one of rap's best lyricists. Still, he shrugs off the idea of fame, insisting he's "regular" and leaving that hustle to, say, Kanye.

"I'm someone who has lived that full life, so I know for a fact it is not promised", he says. "I also treat it like it doesn't matter, because life is so much bigger than us as people. I'm not the important part. There are so many issues in the world — we don't just need to pay attention to the children, we don't just need to pay attention to police brutality — people should focus on whatever they want to fix. They should do their best to put their passion into action, because if it really matters, you won't let it fail." And if rap fails for him? "I'd be all right", he says, the wind off the ocean blurring his words a little. "I'd get to stay home more." *Rebecca Haithcoat*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN LOWRY

"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT DOING BAD IF YOU HAVE A STRONG CONNECTION TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

RACHEL BLOOM

A wild conversation with the creator and star of Crazy Ex Girlfriend, the smartest, sexiest show on The CW Network.

Q1: *More than six studios turned you and your co-creator down before the CW picked up your show, and now it's returning for another season as a critical and viral hit. Do you get recognized more now than before?*

BLOOM: Either I don't look the same on TV or people are just polite. When I do meet someone who recognizes me, itmeans they watch the show, which, from an executive-producer standpoint — that's what I care about. I'm like, Oh good, you're watching the show! What-demographic are you?

Q2: *You wrote nearly 50 original songs on topics ranging from anal waxing to how weird a stranger's balls smell — and all of it on network TV, not streaming or cable. How do you get away with that?*

BLOOM: You can get away with saying all kinds of dark shit if you turn it into a bouncy musical number. When you're doing comedy, music is your straight man. "The Sexy Getting Ready Song" is all about the brutal things women do to look hot and get in touch with their feminine side. My character, Rebecca, sings, "I'm gonna make this night one you'll never forget" as she's waxing hair off her ass. The chorus chimes in with "Ass blood", and you see blood on camera. There's no sub-text with songs. You just let it rip.

Q3: *You shot an earlier version of Crazy Ex-Girlfriend as a pilot for Showtime that never aired. How much edgier was that?*

BLOOM: It was mostly what we have on the CW. There was only one scene we had to re-shoot. Instead of a make-out scene, there was a hand-job scene, which I hope to release.

Q4: *How much do you have to hold back?*

BLOOM: We find work-arounds. It makes us more creative. There was a song, "Oh My God I Think I Like You". Now, had I just done that song by myself, with no censorship, some of it probably would have been sung by my character as she was getting f*cked. You can't show that. However, what we could show was her head getting pushed down for a blow job. Pretty f*cking close. So rather than try to be cutesy, we push the envelope as much as we can. And then when we can, we do a dirty version.

Q5: *Your song "Heavy Boobs" is about having double Ds, each with "the volume of a toddler's head". They are "dense like dying stars" and "they each have their own memoirs". What would your heavy boobs say in a tell-all?*

BLOOM: When you have big boobs, you're a sexual object even when you don't want to be. I would walk down the street in New York in just a T-shirt and get catcalls. I know men don't u-derstand this, but getting catcalled is the worst feeling in the world. It truly feels like you are being physically violated. Boobs sexualise you when it's not on your own terms. Then there's the physical part of it: Having these giant sacs on your body can be painful. They're tied to your hormones, to your reproductive system. PMSing is a real thing, and it can be awful. Boobs are not just these disembodied bags of fat to be used as playthings for guys. That said, a gentle touch goes a long way. For guys in relationships with big-boobed women, I'd say err on the side of being tender, unless she specifically requests you to really grab them and mash them.

Q6: *Do you feel at all competitive with other women in comedy?*

BLOOM: I feel competition only when other people point it out. You read these weird headlines, like MOVE OVER, AMY SCHUMER, or MOVE OVER, TINA FEY. Why move over? Can't we all just stand here together? The only time I get a twinge of something is when there's content overlap. We wanted to do a song recently, and someone in the writers' room pointed out

BY **DAVID HOCHMAN** *PHOTOGRAPHY BY* **JEREMY LIEBMAN**

"HIYA
HIYA!"

that it had basically already been an Amy Schumer sketch, so we scrapped it. For a second you go, "F*ck, she got to it first!" But do I wish she didn't exist and that I was the only woman doing comedy? Absolutely not.

Q7: *You were an intern at Saturday Night Live. What did you learn there?*

BLOOM: I remember watching a ton of Real Housewives and waiting for stuff to do and seeing the writers sit around and write like me and my friends did, and thinking, There's no difference between me and my friends and these guys. I used to think there was some secret they had or some key to the castle. No, they just had more experience. It was just them getting better.

Q8: *You got famous for a 2010 song called "F*ck Me, Ray Bradbury." Wasn't he just shy of 90 years old at the time?*

BLOOM: He was getting on in years, yes. But I was inspired after reading The Martian Chronicles. Also, I find smart people and writers to be very hot. I never went for men because of their looks.

Q9: *So much of dating today is about swiping left or right based on profile pics.*

BLOOM: I used to be attracted to guys who were very tall, very lanky, almost to the point of being feminine. Those guys were not always great for me personality-wise. They tended to be kind of reserved and have a rigid nature about them. I'm glad I'm married now, because if I was dating based on my physical type, I'd be swiping at men I shouldn't be swiping.

Q10: *On the show and in your social media feeds, you switch from looking model gorgeous to strutting around without make up in your Spanx. Is one closer to the real you?*

BLOOM: I'm self-conscious when I'm supposed to look pretty or neutral. I watched a scene where I'm in a bar, and I noticed I had a muffin top. I was like, the song we're doing is not called "Look at Me and My Big Ol' Muffin Top." But there was nothing I could do. People have muffin tops. It's great. Just like when my character is depressed, she should have no make-up on. I go to all these red-carpet events, but it's all an illusion. Anyone being glossy and pretty, with their hair done and make-up done — it's mostly fiction. On the inside, we're all humans filled with guts who poop and fart.

Q11: *On Father's Day 2016 you posted on Twitter, "Hey Dad, thanks for pissing in my mom then sticking around to help raise the pizz and paying for the pizz to take singing lessons." Is that how you talked growing up?*

BLOOM: Around the house it was "f*ck, f*ck, f*ck, f*ck". As an only child, you become like your parents' idiot sidekick, so we all talked that way. They were also okay talking about sex, and that openness made me feel in control of my sexuality. First of all, I have the good fortune to not have been raped — something that happens to one in four women. That's just f*cking luck. I lost my virginity in college and never had sex with a guy before I was ready, because I knew what sex was, I knew the realities of it. I have no problem talking about sex. I have boundary issues in that I have none.

Q12: *Was anything off limits with your parents?*

BLOOM: Talking about my anxiety and depression. I didn't want to be a burden on my parents, and when you have that darkness inside you, it feels very shameful. Eventually I found that the more you share it, the more a weight is lifted. That's why I like exposing secrets. If you don't, you're repressing things. Fear leads to hate, hate leads to the dark side. I'm completely bungling the Star Wars quote, but it's all connected. If we were all more open, we wouldn't be so ashamed that we have insecurities and that we watch porn, and a lot of problems would go away.

Q13: *What kind of relationship do you have with pornography?*

BLOOM: A vibrator and porn are my glass of wine. I read erotica for many years, which was really fun, but then a couple of years ago I was like, I'm going to try watching porn — and I really, really liked it. My tastes in porn are very much the typical older-man, younger-woman type. It's the heteronormative way of things, where men are dominant and women are submissive. I think people often confuse someone's sexual predilections with their ability to be powerful or feminist. Just because I want to be on the submissive side in the bedroom has nothing to do with my ability to be a boss or with my intelligence. It's an interesting contradiction. That's kind of what the show is about: the struggle between thinking we are evolved human beings who live in society and us all being animals.

Q14: *How would America be different with a woman in the White House?*

BLOOM: Women, to use the most gross generalisation, do what's good for the team. They do what's best for the greater good, and that would be good for the country. I see this on my TV show, where most of our department heads are women. If you say to a male costume designer, "This needs to be changed because it doesn't work with the writing", sometimes they'll be like, "You're wrong. I have an Emmy, so, um, no". Then you have to really serve the ego. "Oh yes, we know you have an Emmy, but could you just do this one thing, pretty please?" If you say to a woman something needs to be changed, she'll go, "Okay. Done."

Q15: *Who's funny but not yet famous?*

BLOOM: There's this group called the Apple Sisters who are just fantastic. They do a 1940s-type radio show. They're amazing. Zach Sherwin, who writes a lot of the raps for our show, is fantastic and should be famous. I know

"I'M DOING THE THING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO. TO USE A PORN TERM, I'M BEING FILLED IN ALL MY HOLES."

the Lonely Island is famous already, but I love them

Q16: *What's coming up this season on Crazy Ex Girlfriend?*

BLOOM: The theme of season one in the writers' room was the lies we tell ourselves. The theme of season two is that change is hard. Rebecca's not in denial as much anymore. She has admitted to Josh that she moved to California to be near him. You can't unsay that, and now we can play with the premise of the show in a way we hadn't been able to before.

Q17: *What would you put out there if you didn't have to worry about standards and practices?*

BLOOM: It's funny. I did a comedy-club show at the Largo in Los Angeles, and I was going to do "Heavy Boobs" wearing just pasties. I pitched that idea to my friend Jack, and he said, "That's awesome and so funny, but just know that it will live on the internet forever. When ever someone googles you, they're going to see you in pasties at a live show where you didn't have to be in pasties." I thought, maybe I want to hold off on that until it's really important.

Q18: *What would qualify as important enough for pasties?*

BLOOM: Maybe a big benefit performance rather than a regular club gig. It's something I'm not opposed to doing. I just want to wait for the right moment. Same with the internet. I'm not going to post topless pictures of myself, because that's a boundary that I do have. I don't want people to see my bare tits unless it's for a good reason.

Q19: *Life is going well for you. Any new mountains to climb?*

BLOOM: People ask me, "What's next for you?" and I think, what do you mean what's next? This was the thing. Not that I have no other ambitions. There are things I want to do. After doing a lot of these talk shows — Colbert, Seth Meyers, Kimmel — I would love to be a person in late night. I would love to host a late-night or variety show. I wouldn't do a topical opening monologue. I would make it much more variety-based.

Q20: *Who would be your dream guests?*

BLOOM: I can picture having a politician and then a fire eater and then doing a musical number. I would have Elizabeth Warren, the cast of Stomp and maybe someone dead, like Benjamin Franklin. But I'm doing the thing I've always wanted to do right now, so I'm good. To use a porn term, I'm being filled in all my holes. ■

THE TICKET TO FREEDOM.

Whenever I get invited to a BMW press launch event I get excited. I get flashbacks of all the amazing times I've attended in the past and relive memories of some of the greatest bikes I've gotten to ride at those events. I also wonder to myself, how could they possibly improve on the near close to perfection that is their press events and the way they host, and allow, and plan, for the press to experience said new bike to the max.

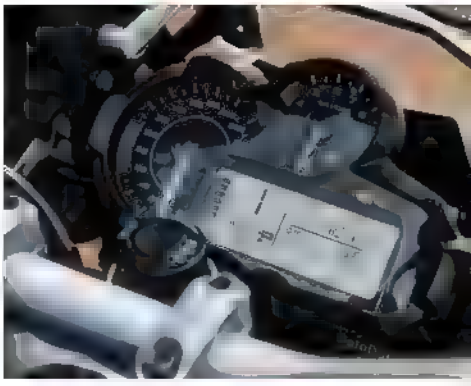
The GS launch set a new bar in my eyes. We arrived at the BMW rider training centre in Zwartkops and were given our press packs and a nice sit-down presentation on the 37 years of GS history and a further update and walk-through of the new bike and the features we could expect to enjoy on the ride over the next two days.

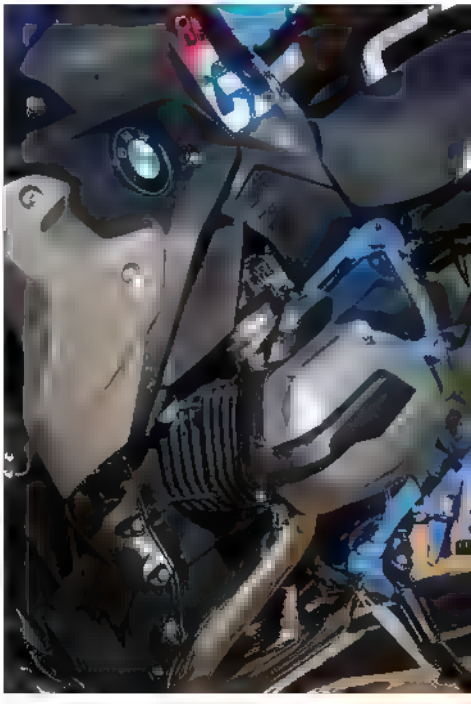
What I really love about BMW launches is the setting, locations and routes they plan for you to ride. Because the GS is an on-off adventure themed bike I was expecting to be thrown into some off-road riding of which I have no experience at all, and I was a little concerned at how I would handle it. So, when we finally did arrive at some dirt roads and bush, I made the switch to off-road mode (Enduro Pro) and changed the suspension using the all new "next generation" electronic suspension Dynamic ESA, both of which you can do on the fly... I was really surprised and impressed with how effortless the GS made riding on dirt and bumps and over rocks or through water. Many times over the two days I found myself coming into a dirt road bend to hot, or over gravel and deep sand, and thought to myself "now I've really done it.. " and lo and behold, the GS just sailed through all the obstacles and really made me look and feel like a pro.

The GS is rather iconic and sells like hot cakes in South Africa. I don't actually think there is a bike out there that even comes close to BMW GS sales. It's popular and sought after and on the road I see loads of them. Until now, I didn't get the appeal of this type of bike, but now I do, after two days on tar, sand, gravel and grass all over the Pilanesberg and surrounding areas. After travelling in convoy with press and BMW staff alike with little to nothing in common but the same bike between our legs and the open vastly differing road surfaces... I felt so connected in that moment and imagined how planned trips like this with family and friends could be so extremely fun and amazing. It all made sense, and having such a versatile bike as your weapon of choice for life as a whole also rang true.

The New GS has many engine updates and improvements. Powered as before by the air/liquid cooled boxer with an output of 92kW at 7750rpm and a maximum torque of 125Nm at 6500rpm, the new R1200GS now has an altered catalytic converter and a new data status for the engine management to meet the latest EU4 requirements. The 2017 model already saw the addition of a judder damper on the transmission output shaft and a revision of the selector drum actuator and transmission shafts.. all make for smooth and responsive power delivery through all gears and in all situations. There is also additional tech and electronics for days. There are some sport and superbikes that still don't even have quick shifters and only the real serious ones have an auto blip and downshift assist. The GS has both, and they're good, real fast and smooth and made riding absolute bliss.

Apart from the amazing food and the way BMW hosts one like royalty, treating you to locations and experiences you don't often get to experience, you get to also do it on an exceptional new bike, which you get to ride... a lot. They make sure that after the launch you have put that bike through all its paces. So, you truly know what it can do and are able to relate what it is about this new machine that you like or dislike. I must commend BMW SA on their GS launch and the roads and routes they planned for us. My eyes have been opened to a whole new world of motorbikes that I've been depriving myself of. When I do make the step into this world, the GS is at the top of my list of bikes to choose from. I'm sure even when I do compare it to the others, it'll still be high up there if you take the GS sales into account as the most popular public opinion of this type of bike.





CARS, GUNS AND BANDICOOTS

From navigating chicanes and ancient tombs, adrenaline is high this season.

By ANDRE COETZER

F1 2017

There is no doubt that this season of the 2017 FIA FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP is one of the most exciting ever, with Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport's Lewis Hamilton and Scuderia Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel battling it out at the top of the Championship. And now finally you can recreate the drama in your own living room with the release of the official video game F1 2017. After the much-improved F1 2016, Codemasters has pulled out all the stops in this year's iteration with the biggest talking point being the return of classic F1 cars, last seen in F1 2013. From the 1988 McLaren MP4/4 as driven by Ayrton Senna, the 1992 Wilhams FW14B that was raced by Nigel Mansell, to the 2002 Ferrari F2002 of Michael Schumacher and for the first time ever F1 2017 fully integrates the classic experience into the main career mode. As part of your driver's career you will be invited to race in modern day invitational events in the different classic F1 cars throughout the season. There is also more variety in F1 2017 with the inclusion of four alternative circuit layouts, as well as numerous new gameplay types. The classic cars will also be available to play in a range of other game modes, including online multiplayer modes and time trial. As always the cars and tracks look incredible and the sound design is as authentic as one can get. F1 2017 is the ultimate racing experience for Formula 1 fans and is without a doubt the best F1 racing game ever made.

Available on PS4 and Xbox One at awx.co.za (R860)

UNCHARTED THE LOST LEGACY

The Uncharted series is one of the most critically acclaimed games ever created and with the masterful Uncharted 4: A Thief's End signalling the last time we would potentially see series hero Nathan Drake, fans of Naughty Dog's seminal series were left wondering if they would ever return to the world of Uncharted. Fortunately, Sony and Naughty Dog had a surprise up their sleeve with the announcement of The Lost Legacy, a stand-alone adventure set in the same world as the previous four games, but without the usual wise cracking hero. Fan favourite Chloe Fraser, returning to the series after appearing in the second and third Uncharted, takes the lead this time out, enlisting the help of renowned mercenary Nadine Ross as they aim to recover a fabled ancient Indian artifact and keep it out of the hands of a ruthless

warmonger Together, they'll venture deep into the mountains of India in search of this legendary artifact. Along the way they'll learn to work together to unearth the mystery, fight their way through fierce opposition and prevent the entire region from falling into chaos Building upon the gameplay and storytelling of Uncharted 4 A Thief's End, the Lost Legacy will feature all the trademarks of the much-beloved series, including a rich cinematic story, exotic new locations and action-packed set pieces It's the Uncharted everyone knows and loves but this time the ladies get to kick ass, crack wise and uncover the mystery of the lost legacy

Available on PS4 at awwwx.co.za (R575)

CRASH BANDICOOT N SANE TRILOGY

Anyone who owned the original PlayStation during the mid-nineties will fondly remember a small marsupial platformer that stole everyone's hearts and became the mascot for Sony's first ever gaming console. Crash Bandicoot was a huge hit and the first massively successful game for future Sony superstars Naughty Dog. The series would see three games released for the original PlayStation console, all extremely popular and all selling loads. When the PlayStation 2 was announced many Crash fans couldn't wait to see their favourite marsupial on the exciting next gen console. Yet it never came. Crash Bandicoot disappeared into the gaming ether, never to be seen again. Until last year's E3 conference when Sony shocked everyone with the announcement of a HD remaster of all three original Crash Bandicoot titles for the PS4. Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy features completely new visuals for Crash Bandicoot, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back and Crash Bandicoot 3: Warped. Finally, everyone can experience these classic platform games in beautiful high definition, but with the original's classic charm and incredible challenge. The attention to reworking every single detail is highly commendable and it's truly a pleasure going through all the memorable stages. For fans of the original this is a no-brainer, purchase this now and relive the magic of the original series. For newcomers, it's a great way to experience what made the original PlayStation and Crash Bandicoot such an incredible accomplishment.

Available on PS4 at awx.co.za (R590)

JENNY

MARIE

I'm a full time glamour model and a tomboy at heart. I love being naked more than I like clothes. I'd rather go to an amusement park than go shopping and would rather eat a donut over a salad. I'd rather Netflix and chill than dress up and party. I'm a natural having never done anything to alter my looks. I've never even coloured my hair. I would rather spend the rest of my life poor and happy than rich and depressed. This world is driven by sex but love is what makes my world go round.

About me
My name is Jenny Marie, I'm a proud native of the rainy Pacific Northwest in the US. I reside in sunny Southern California. I live up to my zodiac sign as a Leo. I am a very kind hearted and passionate person but dominant and tremendously stubborn. I started modeling at the age of 4 with ABC kids and teens modeling agency in Seattle, Washington. I modelled on and off as a hobby but didn't become serious in pursuing my dreams until my early 20's. As I became more involved in the industry modeling became my lifelong passion. I've had the wonderful opportunity to travel the world and create incredible images with exceptional photographers, make up artists, wardrobe stylists etc. I hope to continue to inspire others to always feel beautiful in their own skin and to always follow their heart.

My hobbies and interests
I love being active and outdoors. I love working out, snowboarding, scuba diving, rollerblading, playing ping pong, playing video games (especially Super Mario World), playing pool and roller coasters. My main interests include traveling and animals.

My goals and career ambitions
My career goals were always to be published in Playboy magazine as an all natural model. Since I was a young teenager I saw a naked woman posed in Playboy magazine and I thought to myself, one day I want to be that gorgeous woman that everyone looks up to and is inspired by. I think being naked is where people should feel the most free and most comfortable in their own skin. Instead people grow ashamed of their bodies and never fully understand how lovely they can truly feel.

Who inspires me
Fitness models are a huge motivation in my life. The drive to live a healthy lifestyle is so inspiring. It takes so much discipline to be on track every day of your life with the right amount of water, types of foods, amount of sleep to feel and look your best no matter what your age. I strive to better myself and live a healthier lifestyle every day.

My favourite quote
"A dream is a wish your heart makes" - Cinderella

Turn on
Gentlemen who open the door for you. Touches you every time they walk by. Kisses you on the forehead before he goes to sleep every night. A man that f*cks you right. A man that is always honest no matter who's feelings they're gonna hurt. A man that stares into your eyes in a room full of stunning women. A man with pretty eyes, cute ass tattoos and a beard. Only kings get queens.

Turn off
Bad hygiene, unappreciative, ignorant, selfish.

The perfect date
My perfect date would be to go snowboarding all day in the beautiful mountains and then spend time together indoors by a fire drinking wine.

My girl crush
Zoe Saldana

My favourite food
Donuts and chocolate pizza and Mexican food.

My biggest fear
Drowning and suffocation.

One destination I'd love to visit
Bora Bora - I hear they have magnificent scuba diving.

I'm not embarrassed to say
Donuts are a part of my weekly diet plan.

Want to see more of Jenny? Then follow her on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat @jennymariebaby

Bra 32DD
Waist 61cm
Hips 81cm
Height 173cm
Weight 53kg
Eye colour Blue

71
TEMBER 2017

DIARY OF A SPORTS JOURNALIST

Barcelona Catalunya MotoGP

By **CRAIG TOONTAS**

Day 1
Arrival in Spain.

Nothing quite like the sun during a Mediterranean Summer. Basking on the beach. Looking at the ocean's crisp blue hues. Well, we were doing neither. We were stuck outside the Barcelona-El Prat Airport (or just Barcelona Airport) in 35-degree heat while our chaperone, already an hour late, made his way through some sticky Barcelona traffic. My editor, getting crankier by the minute, mumbling something about the Wi-Fi signal and his missing medication was not helping either.

However, at that precise moment in rushed chaperone in his rented black VW Passat with a mouthful of excuses and apologies. Immediately we took a liking to him as he had this laissez-faire Cape Town coolness about him and had us in hysterics from the moment we met. Our chaperone was the Marketing Manager for Monster South Africa and we were going to be his guests for the week. An ex-competitive mountain biker, he knows all there is to know about the action sports world and proceeded to give Ed and I the full run down, also including the inside track to the colloquial slang, with words like "INSANELY", which presumably means more than "Insane" when describing a trick, propulsion speed or even some of the gorgeous Spanish women. Ed at this stage had found his meds and calmed down. We were well on our way to having an epic trip to cover the Moto

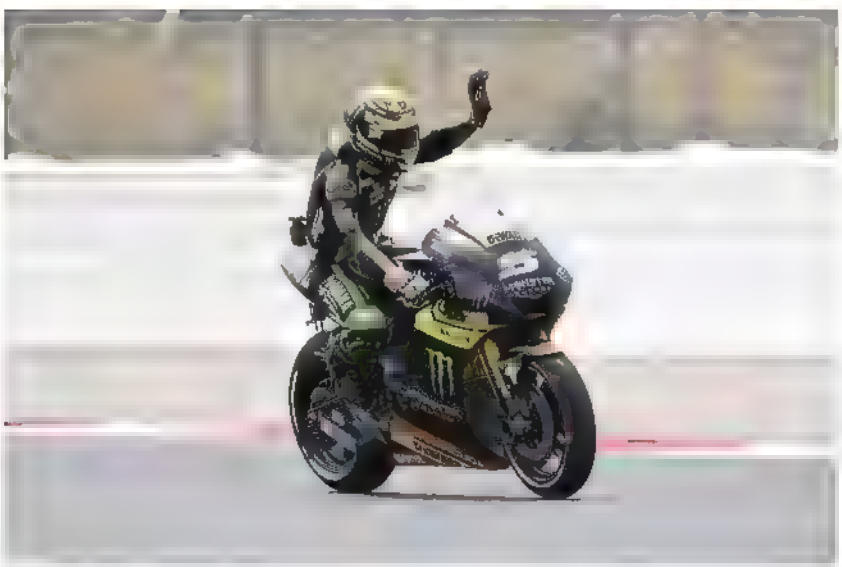
GP, sponsored by Monster Energy. After our dinner of delicious tapas and Spanish beer we take a walk around Barcelona to find a quaint gelato stand to end off our night.

Day 2
Get Qualified

Ed and I set off on what would become our morning ritual. A jog down to the warm Mediterranean Sea to get our exercise in before the real work commences.

In sport mad Spain, MotoGP has a cult following with fans flowing in from all over the country. The entrance to the stadium was absolutely manic as bikes and buses started queuing to get in, people even opting to sleep on the track grounds for the weekend. Faces painted, shirts off and chanting their heroes names. Almost all weekend you could hear "VALE VALE VALE" as Valentino Rossi made his way around the pits or signed autographs for fans who were willing to wait hours just for a glimpse of the man. Screeching engines and 1.8m-tall pit lane girls aside, this is what started my romance with the sport that is MotoGP. There was a sense that the riders were humble and appreciative of the throngs of people which made this all possible, which isn't always evident at every sporting event. If you can believe it, this mayhem was only for the qualifying sessions. The excitement of the race day was now hanging thick in the air and people were jostling to place their bets and get in on the action.

Not to miss out on any action ourselves, we had a quick shower and joined the 15-strong Monster Team on a night out on Las Ramblas. The infamous tree lined party venue located in the centre of Barcelona which 15 is minutes from our beachfront hotel. We walked the main road for some time and then ducked into the Plaça Reial (Reial Catalan for royal). Built in the 1840s in order to extol then monarch, King Ferdinand VII. The elegant ambience of the Plaça Reial is accentuated by a beautiful fountain, street lamps and palm trees, and it is one of Barcelona's busiest, most vibrant spots, particularly at night. We had the pleasure of being treated to Ocana Cocina Mediterranea, an exquisite seafood restaurant which has smacks of Cuban architecture alongside some eccentrically dressed patrons. Clearly the place to be. Ed was puffing on a gloriously sized Cohiba which would have made Escobar do a double take. It was truly a night to remember. Knowing that we had an early wake-up call, we fought our way through the late-night cocaine and sex purveyors, jumped into a taxi driven by what seemed to be a disgruntled old



Formula 1 Test Driver who hurtled us back to the safety of the Hilton Barcelona.

Day 3
Dude, where is my car?

After getting back to the hotel the previous night, our chaperone had decided 1am was too early for bed and proceeded to don his "gambling shirt" and take the Casino Barcelona for a dance and returned home R3 000 richer. We were busy sharing in his excitement when we realised that the rented black VW Passat was no longer parked in front of the hotel (a spot our he had assured us was legal). Turns out the Spanish Traffic Cops had decided to tow it away, resulting in a R4 000 fine for our now, not so excited chaperone. Now I'm no mathematician but I think he came out losing that exchange with Barcelona.

Race Day

Nonetheless, we were too on edge to continue

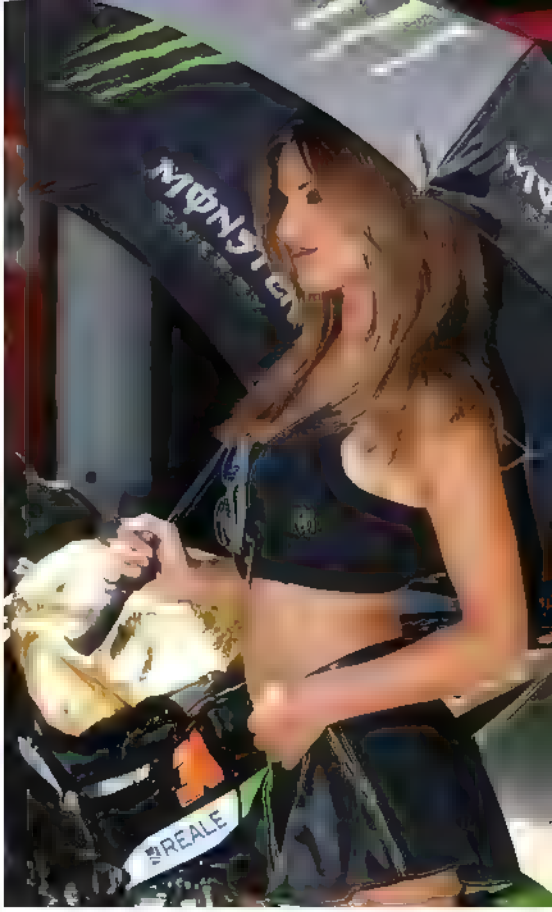
ENEOS

MONSTER
MONSTER
MONSTER

laughing at our chaperone, so we jumped into our newly hitched ride and made our way hurriedly to the main event of the weekend. The place where legends are made and records are broken, the spectacular Circuit de Catalunya. This FIA Grade 1 track holds a staggering 140 000 spectators which is over 40 000 more than arguably Barcelona's biggest and most famous sporting attraction, Camp Nou the home of Barcelona FC. Built in 1991, it is one of the only tracks to host a Grand Prix in the very same year of being built. A track graced by some of the greatest names in motor racing, such as the late Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher.

Entering the track we were greeted by what can only be described as world-class pandemonium as the Monster Girls took to the stage surrounded by thousands of adoring

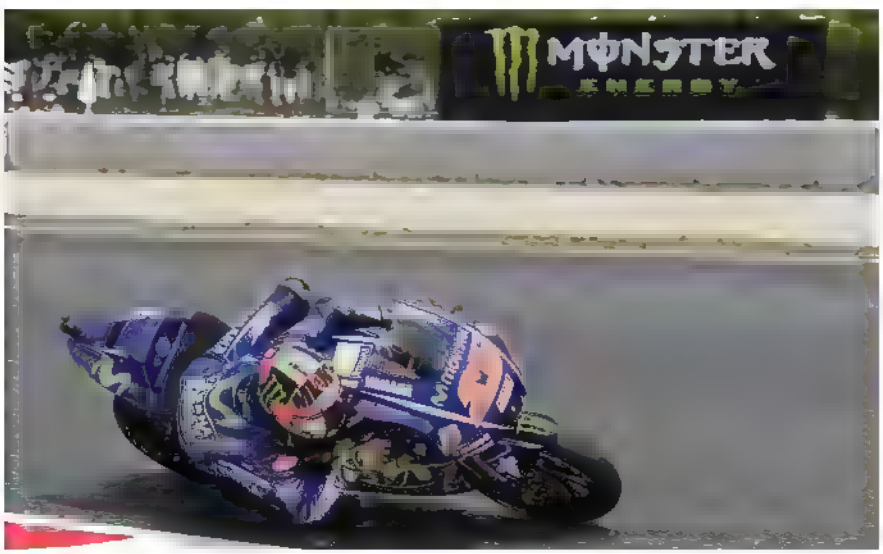
ONSTER
GIRLS


MONSTER
REALE

fans, they stripped down to bikinis and jumped into a raised jacuzzi only making the crowd go wilder. Alongside them were the likes of BMX and MTB Freestyle Champions Adolf Silva and Clemens Kaudela doing Supermans, backflips and even Adolf's double backflip on the dirt ramps encircling us. The crowd revelling with every landed trick while the Monster Girls danced their choreographed routines to perfection. Flame throwers and confetti rockets littered the sky. Completely overwhelmed by the spectacle of it all, Ed and I screamed at the top of our voices, INSANELY.

With the race now well under way, we took to our hospitality tent to watch "The Doctor" Valentino Rossi, riding the now famous No. 46 bike, do what he does best. Watching these men stylishly wind their way around the 50-degree black snake of tar at speeds north of 300km/h, makes you feel somewhat talentless but that didn't stop us from giving our opinions on which lines they should have taken or how bad their pit strategy was. Out on the media balcony my ears could not stand the sound of these mechanical masterpieces as they threw decibels at me, forcing me to go back inside into the air-conditioned tent. This was a memory to tick off my bucket list and as the event drew to a close, we knew that this would not be the last time, as we would make every effort to return again in the future. I was completely humbled and grateful that life had allowed me to experience this.

After a team lunch and some more Spanish beers we all reminisced on the weekend we had experienced, a comradery second to none had formed as we shared stories of Las Ramblas, towed vehicles and the warm hospitality of the Spaniards. The trip back to our hotel was bitter sweet as we realised it was all over, we were however exceptionally grateful. Grateful to Monster for taking us on this trip of a lifetime, grateful to Barcelona for its beauty and even to the rented black VW Passat which had carted us back and forth in safety.



Day 4
Home Time

It's not often we get to do these trips and as

fun as they are they also make us appreciate the great weather and experiences our own country has to offer. This was at the forefront of my mind as Ed made his way to Dubai for some family downtime and Carlos (Ryan) made his way to Cape Town. We hit some last-minute shopping at one of Barcelona's many malls, bought some presents for the significant others and made our way back to the airport where only a few days prior we had been left stranded. Leaving Pedrosa, Marquez and Rossi in our dust we boarded the A380 quite disappointed that we had only learnt one Spanish sentence, "El burro sabe mas que tu" which quite literally means "Donkeys know more than you" and you would be surprised as to how many times we used that during the trip. Farewell Spain, see you soon.

Mandy
EVONNE
MARUF HOSSAIN
POINT A POSE PHOTOGRAPHY
JESSICA TULLAS
MARCOS VENEGAS

I hope you enjoy the set I did in Costa Rica with The International Bikini Model Search shot by Maruf Hossain Here's a little about me

About me
I'm southern fun loving funny, outgoing and an adventurous girl from a small town in Louisiana USA born and raised Yes I have an accent and everyone reminds me I'm a mom to a beautiful 5 year old boy I've been modeling off and on since I was 19 and it's turned into a passion that has no limits that I feel I can't reach

My hobbies and interests
Mommy before anything else I enjoy traveling the world meeting new people adventuring through new places I've never been and eating food I've never tried with good company I like to wake board wake surf go camping and fishing and gamble when my fingers start to itch Girl time and having cocktails with my best ies is something I look forward to about once a month Working out is my biggest stress reliever Would you believe me if I told ya was a kickass volleyball? Because I am I'd like to believe I do the very best in everything I'm passionate about In my mind, the sky is the limit, and I'm climbing to the top

My goals and career ambitions
My goals in life are to provide the best life possible I can for me and my son to teach him to follow his dreams wherever they may lead him To be the best version of myself daily is what I've for I take it day by day all while still managing to have a life outside of parenthood My career ambition is to be a traveling influential international ly published model who young girls can look up to and to design my own swimwear line to fit all women of different sizes and shapes And to one day start my own organisation to help women comfortably speak out about and/or seek help regarding domestic violence

Who inspires me
I'm inspired daily by different people not any one person in particular People who just get up and push themselves to their fullest potential without seeing themselves short or being mediocre People who live outside of their comfort zone always tend to inspire me to keep doing what I'm doing If you've like that you can pretty much do anything you set your mind to

My favourite quote
"Your time is limited so don't waste it living someone else's life Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking Don't let the noise of others opinions drown out your own inner voice And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition They somehow already know what you truly want to become Everything else is secondary" Steve Jobs

Turn on
A funny personality and a pretty smile

Turn off
Bad breath body odour and chapped lips Like Eww

The perfect date
A nice steak dinner with champagne and good vibes

My girl crush
Selena Gomez

My favourite food
Chicken wings and Blue Bell cookies n cream ice cream

My biggest fear
What's in the dark and spiders

One destination I'd love to visit
Iceland

I'm not embarrassed to say
That I've kicked a few asses in my day

Final thought
I hope you guys enjoyed this You'll be seeing a lot more of Mandy Evonne just wait

You can follow Mandy's journey on Instagram @Mandy_Evonne

Bra: 34DD
Waist: 76cm

RENEGADES

The men and women on these pages will change how you think about business, music, porn, comedy, gaming and more. They've risked it all — even their lives — to do what they love, showing us what can be accomplished if we break the rules. Meet the Renegades

JASON DILL

In 2009, pro skateboarder Jason Dill had to call 911 on himself. He was throwing up blood all over his New York City apartment and suffering from a gastric haemorrhage. The Jameson, Vicodin and Percocet cocktails had finally taken their toll.

"I didn't think I'd even survive", says Dill, who now stars on the Netflix series *Love*. "When I'm on the set, I'm quiet as a mouse. I'm just so blown away and thankful I'm there. And the last thing I ever wanted was the responsibility of owning a company that people expect more from – because owning a company is a pain in the ass."

In 2013, after kicking the pills and spending more time on his board, Dill ditched his longtime sponsor, Alien Workshop – one of the most popular skateboarding companies ever – and walked away from a partial-ownership offer to co-found board brand Fucking Awesome, an extension of his self-funded apparel side project.

In doing so, Dill dumped a bucket of ice on the once-countercultural world of skateboarding, which in the previous 17 years had devolved into a G-rated parody of itself to appease moms and malls, and woke it the f*ck up. The exodus of Alien's riders to Fucking Awesome was swift. It's now one of the top-selling and most knocked-off companies in boards and streetwear, despite its provocative graphics, null social media presence and label-that prevents mass retail saturation.

"I suppose FA is like having a kid", he says. "It's got personality; it's walking around and talking. I can't let it go to a community college, you know? I gotta raise it right." *Rob Brink*

STOYA

It's hard to capture an old friend in one anecdote, but I'll try. The time is two AM, and Stoya and I are smoking outside an East Village bar. A mink hangs from her shoulders. The streetlights catch her feline cheekbones like a kiss. Stoya tells me about the mid-19th century prima ballerina Emma Livry. In an era when dancers routinely caught fire from stage lights, Livry refused to destroy the ethereality of her art by soaking her tutu in flame retardant. When she died of burns, she had no regrets. Stoya notes that panic about safety often focuses on the bodies, and the choices, of young women. She wonders why no one thought to move the lights.

This moment hints at Stoya's ferocious mix of glamour, toughness and nerdery. A classically trained ballerina until an injury in her mid-teens ruined her prospects, Stoya became a porn star — and I use the word star in the sense that applies to Garbo. She has written for *The New York Times*, starred in a Serbian sci-fi film (the upcoming *Ederlezi Rising*) and trained as an aerialist in Moscow. She has also moved into entrepreneurship, co-founding the genre-defying porn site TrenchcoatX. When one of the biggest porn studios in the USA treated her with disrespect, she chose to work as a waitress rather than kowtow. No matter what she does, Stoya exudes a fierce, hard-won sense of freedom.

Molly Crabapple

LAURA JANE GRACE

Laura Jane Grace has been minutely scrutinised since she started the band Against Me! as an anarchist-inspired solo project in 1997. US punk purists frothed as the Gainesville, Florida group's sound evolved from lo-fi folk to full-on anthemic pop punk, leading to a major-label record deal in 2007. (These days, the band releases music on its own Total Treble imprint.) Fans and critics stopped and stared when Grace came out as transgender in 2012 — an event with few precedents in the testosterone-drenched world of punk rock. Last November, two months after the release of the seventh Against Me! album, Shape Shift With Me, Grace will cap off her odyssey so far with a memoir titled Tranny: Confessions of Punk Rock's Most Infamous Anarchist Sellout.

Back in May 2016, Grace made headlines for burning her birth certificate onstage in North Carolina to protest the state's anti-trans bathroom law. But her music and writing signal a more intimate strain of activism. Listening to Against Me! songs such as "I Was a Teenage Anarchist" and "True Trans Soul Rebel", it becomes clear that Grace has always lived where the personal and the political collide. Her painfully honest, deeply human way of articulating that friction is the definition of Grace. And she still believes in the scene that has sustained her, even as it has threatened to drown her in expectations. "The influence that punk rock has had on my life is astounding", she says. "I just think music is infinitely important." — *Jonah Bayer*

ALI WONG

Ali Wong wanted it all (career, relationship, baby), got it all and mined every last minute of it in the process. The comedian currently juggles her mom duties, her day gig as a writer on acclaimed sitcom Fresh Off the Boat and her thriving stand-up career — while taking every conventional rule of comedy and bending it to her liking.

Wong's Netflix special, Baby Cobra, filmed when she was more than seven months pregnant, is truly hilarious and groundbreaking. Now, as a new mother, she's on another mission: speaking openly about finding a balance between her hormones' command to stay home with her daughter and her professional need to stick to the comedy grind. The good news? Whatever she's doing, it's working.

"In 2015 in San Francisco, before Baby Cobra, they had to put some of my tickets on Groupon because I couldn't sell all the seats", she says. "Then in 2016, at that same venue, tickets for five shows sold out in less than one minute." Sure, the crowds may be changing, but the objective of an Ali Wong show has always been the same. "I want people to laugh to the point that they can't think." — *Jamie Loftus*

"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A HOUSEHOLD NAME AS A STAND-UP COMIC AND ALSO BE A MOTHER. I WAS NOT GOING TO ACCEPT THAT THEY WERE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE."

PAUL BEATTY

Paul Beatty may be America's most hilarious and subversive writer. In July 2016, the Los Angeles native's daring fourth novel, The Sellout, was long-listed for the prestigious 2016 Man Booker Prize. The gleefully unhinged satire follows the misadventures of one Bonbon Me, an urban weed and watermelon farmer whose father, a prominent psychologist and "Nigger Whisperer", is gunned down by the LAPD. With the settlement money, Bonbon reinstitutes segregation, acquires an elderly slave and lands himself, stoned, before a baffled Supreme Court.

"It all starts with the language", says the 54-year-old (who was also the first-ever Grand Poetry Slam champion, in 1990). "That's where all the lattice work is for me." Indeed, the thrill of The Sellout lies not only in Beatty's delirious conceit but also in his virtuoso riffs that take bull's-eye aim at race, class, pop culture and propriety in our supposedly post-racial America.

"I get nervous when things don't make people nervous", Beatty says. "A lot of writers of colour feel there are certain directions they have to take: what your point of view should be, who can do what, how positive it has to be. Somebody's always going to tell you what it means to be a black writer, what responsibilities you have. Just trying to create some space is important to me."

And that's exactly what Beatty does, obliterating the boundaries of what is funny, what is profane and what is just so sad and unfixable that we can only laugh to keep from crying. There's a bit of truth in every good joke, and perhaps in that truth we are able, after the laughs subside, to better see the world and ourselves in it. *James Yeh*

"THERE'S STILL THIS NOTION THAT THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE BLACK. CAN WE HAVE A RANGE? THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING FOR."

NOOR TAGOURI

For anyone with preconceived ideas about women who choose to wear a headscarf every day, Noor Tagouri is disorienting. She's simply not what you expect: a 22-year-old journalist (she likes to call herself a storyteller) on the verge of becoming this country's first hijab-wearing news anchor. As of June 2016, she's been an on-air reporter for Newsy, where she provokes the sort of confusion we could use right now, in part by making a surprisingly bold case for modesty. As a badass activist with a passion for demanding change and asking the right questions, accompanied by beauty-ad-campaign looks, Tagouri forces us to ask ourselves why we have such a hard time wrapping our minds around a young woman who consciously covers her head and won't take no for an answer.

A West Virginia native and first-generation Libyan American, Tagouri graduated from college at the age of 20. In 2012, her #LetNoorShine campaign went viral. Her 2015 TEDx talk advocated unapologetic individuality, and her YouTube channel draws tens of thousands of viewers. More recently, she collaborated with streetwear brand Lis'n Up Clothing on a fashion line that includes a Jean-Michel Basquiat–inspired sweatshirt. Half the purchase proceeds go to Project Futures, an anti-human-trafficking organisation. Americans have a long way to go when it comes to how we regard Muslims, but with Tagouri burning down stereotypes and blazing new paths, we're a healthy stride closer. — *Anna del Gaizo*

"BEING A HIJABI MUSLIM WOMAN HELPS ME GAIN TRUST. I SAY, 'I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE MISREPRESENTED IN THE MEDIA. I WON'T DO THAT TO YOU'."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATE WARREN

SEAN MURRAY

Everyone dreams of being an astronaut; Sean Murray made a game that lets you play one. Recently the 36-year-old's company, Hello Games, released one of the most ambitious video games in recent history: No Man's Sky. The gorgeous sci-fi adventure allows players to explore more than 18 quintillion planets — yes, quintillion — thanks to clever environment-generation technology. Travel to massive worlds suffused with rich colours and teeming with alien creatures — then dodge galactic cops in your spacecraft.

The Ireland-born, Australian outback–raised Murray created his first game when he was just five. "My parents always joke that this is all I ever wanted to do", he says.

Murray founded Hello Games in 2008 with three friends after quitting his job at Criterion, a big studio that got bought by EA, an even bigger studio. Sick of slaving away on blockbusters such as the Burnout series, he wanted to flex his creative muscles. Today that's not a unique origin story for an independent game developer, but back then, in the days before the Apple App Store, it was.

"We were some of the first people to do that", he says. "In our minds, it wasn't some path to success. It was more like, I can't work here anymore, and I need to go do something different."

No Man's Sky, the third release from Hello Games, launched in August 2016 after three years of feverish build-up among gamers obsessed with the promise of endless exploration. It's a high-water mark for video games — and like a true artist, that's all Murray really cares about.

—Mike Rougeau

"THAT WAS A BIG MOTIVATOR: WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE BEST WORK OF YOUR LIFE? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK BACK ON AND SAY, 'THAT F*CKING NAILED IT'?"

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID TITLOW

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